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HISTORY
OF
WASHINGTON
TOWNSHIP

Alameda County
California.

Compiled and Published
By the
COUNTRY CLVB

THE WOMAN'S CLUB
OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
1904.

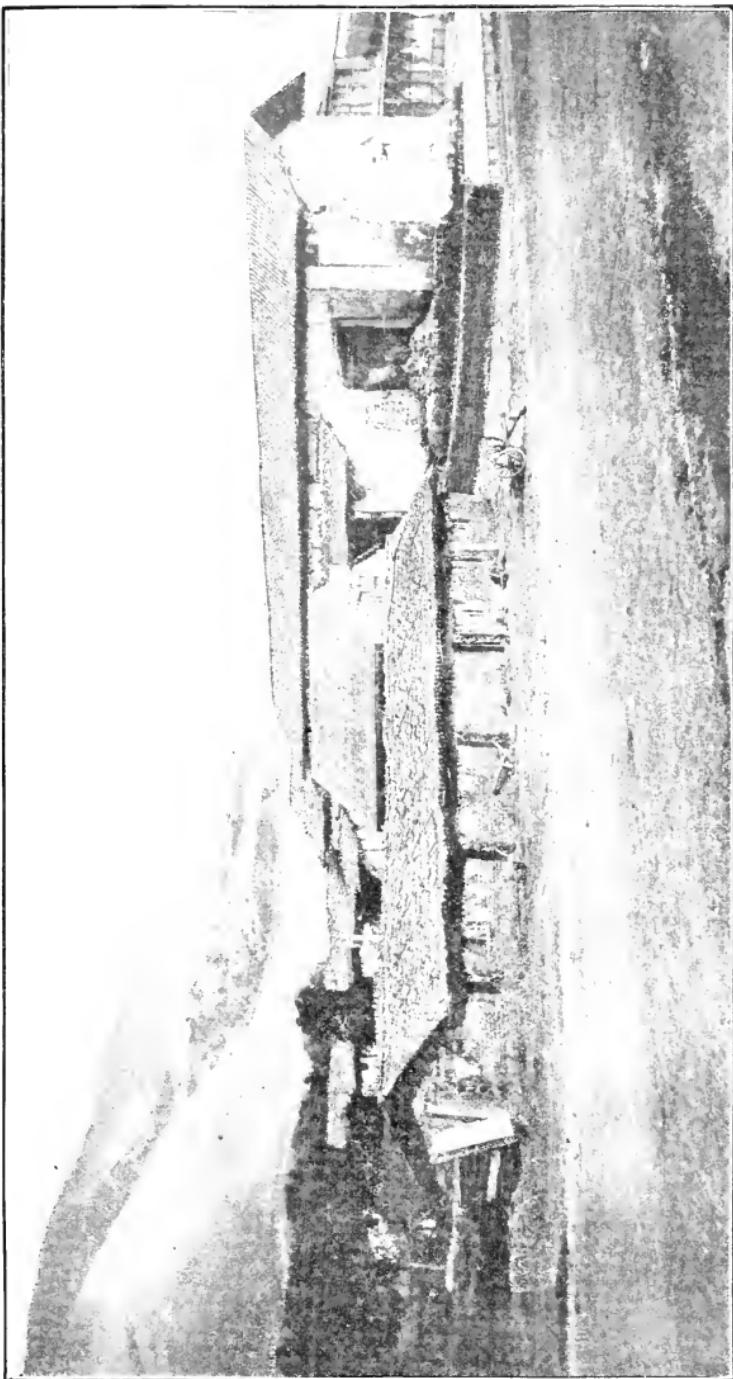
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FROM
OAKLAND BOARD OF TRADE
OAKLAND, CAL.

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MISSION SAN JOSE IN 1850

PREFACE

.....

The Country Club, under whose auspices this history is published, was the outcome of two political equality societies, one of Centreville and one of Niles. The first meeting of the Woman's Club of Washington Township, afterward re-named the Country Club, was held in December, 1897, at the home of Mrs. C. H. Allen, Centreville. At that time there were present twenty-five women from different parts of the township, who became charter members of the club then organized. At the present writing six of the seven villages in the township are represented, and there are a few members from outside districts.

Believing that the history of this township would be valuable as a part of Alameda County and of the State, the women of the Country Club began this work early in May, 1903. Every active member contributed something to it, and the heads of the various committees compiled the material into papers, which were read at a "Golden Jubilee" meeting, held May 19th, in the Town Hall of Centreville, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the township. The past and the present, represented by the pioneers, their children and grandchildren, crowded the hall, which was tastefully decorated with great branches of golden mustard blooms, California poppies, and wild oats in luxuriant profusion.

On either side of the platform were tables covered with valued relics and papers belonging to early days. The papers read at this meeting proved so interesting that the Club decided to preserve them in permanent form. To the old settlers some of the records may appear incorrect, and some so familiar as to seem unimportant; but the compilers believe that every fact and incident related is of interest and worth recounting, for the events of the past are rapidly fading away; and it is hoped that the reading of these pages may revive old memories and incite each pioneer now living to put in writing his early California experience, particularly that part of it which relates to this locality and its first settlement by Americans; so that not only historical facts may be gathered, but traditions also may be collected and kept for future use.

The work is not free from errors, and claims no literary merit; the details of such an undertaking are many and difficult; but

much painstaking labor has been given by those having the matter in charge, to guard as far as could be done against inaccuracies, and to make it not only interesting but reliable.

If, after all our efforts, mistakes are found we trust our readers will not be harsh critics, but will consider how difficult it is to attain to perfection in anything, and how hard to get exact accounts of the happenings of even fifty years ago when so few records were kept.

Thanks are due to many individuals throughout the township, as well as to former residents, for valuable assistance. Our limited space does not allow detailed mention of names, but the Club is especially grateful to Mr. J. M. Horner, the first American settler, and to Mr. Wm. Barry, Secretary of the Pioneer Society, for important data.

We send forth this little volume believing that it will prove interesting and of some worth to many readers. We hope that the younger generation and the newer occupants of these lands will not only be entertained, but profited, by the reading, and that the old settlers, the few remaining pioneers to whom we all owe so much, may live over the past in these pages, recalling with pleasure the days full of the stirring events which meant so much to them and their associates who, now "life's fitful fever over, sleep well."



HISTORY ... OF ... Washington Township Alameda County, California

*Compiled and Published by the COUNTRY CLUB, the Woman's Club
of Washington Township*

1900-4

The Golden Jubilee of Washington Township was celebrated by a historical meeting of the Country Club, held in the Town Hall, at Centreville, May 19, 1903— fifty years after the settlement of the township. At that meeting the following histories of the several towns, or villages, in the Township, which had been prepared by the Club members, were read. The especial guests on that occasion were the Pioneers. The following is the program presented on that day.

PROGRAM

Address of Welcome by the President of the Club.

SONG Auld Lang Syne, by the Club and Audience

PAPERS

The Mission of San Jose Mission San Jose (the village)

Union City and Alvarado

Centreville

Civil War Notes

VOCAL SOLO

Miss Stella Graham

The Song of Home (encore Comin' Thro' the Rye)

PAPERS

Irvington
Warm Springs
Niles

INSTRUMENTAL SOLO

Miss Tonita Vallejo*

La Filiense, by Raff (encore, Domino, by Miss Tonita Vallejo

PAPERS

Decoto

Newark

Letters were read from Mrs. W. W. Brier, Miss Guadalupe Vallejo and Dr. J. M. Selfridge, pioneer residents, now living elsewhere.

SONG America, by the Club and Audience

*Miss Tonita Vallejo is a granddaughter of Don Jose de Jesus Vallejo.
†Miss Vallejo has died since the above was written.

[†]Miss Vallejo has died since the above was written.

INTRODUCTION.

THE greater part of Washington Township lies in what Father Palou, California's earliest historian, calls the Valle de San Jose, a name applied formerly to the whole long valley, because of the location therein of San Jose, one of the pueblos of California. Subsequently it was called Santa Clara, and the upper portion of it is often spoken of as the Alameda Valley, from the creek of that name flowing through it. Father Palou incidentally mentions that when, in 1773, Capt. Bautista's party went through here from Monterey in search of San Francisco, the soldiers killed elk so large that the antlers measured eight feet from tip to tip. In 1793 the Spanish government of this country decided to establish a third town, or pueblo, and sent out a party to explore, as appears in the report, from Santa Cruz Mission "to the place of the Alameda," and although this place contained a creek, the pueblo, Branciforte, was located near Santa Cruz Mission, but was soon abandoned. There were twenty-one missions, four presidios (garrisons), and three pueblos (civic settlements) including Branciforte, established before 1833, when the missions were secularized. The history of the founding of these old missions is one of interest to everybody. Many of them are now in ruins, only piles of adobe indicating the places where they once stood, but the settlement and civilization of early California were wholly due to their institution, and although now of little or no civic importance, they mark a valuable as well as poetic epoch in the history of the state and the several localities in which they were established. In 1797 one of them was founded in what is now Washington Township, and so it follows that the early history of the township is largely that of Mission San Jose, which appears elsewhere in this work. In 1834 when the Mexican congress passed the act releasing the Indians from the control of the missions, and appointing men to manage the affairs of mission property, Don Jose de Jesus Vallejo was appointed administrator at Mission San Jose, where he lived many years.

It is believed that the grantees were in possession of their Mexican grants long before they were dated. At any rate, no historian has been able to definitely determine the time of settlement on them. From the records in the attorney general's office in Sacramento, the following entries were copied by M. W. Wood, and appear in his history of Alameda County, viz.: To Fulgencia Higuera claimant for Agua Caliente (Warm Springs) two square leagues, granted October 13, 1836, by Nicolas Gutierrez, and April 4, 1839, by Juan B. Alvarado to F. Higuera containing

9,563.87 acres. Patented to him (by U. S.) April 17, 1858. (Three oak trees that marked one portion of the boundary of this grant may be seen today—one on the summit of the range about one-half mile below the top and south of Mission Peak, and the other extending along the ridge in a southerly direction). Los Tularcitos, owned by Thomas Higuera, was a portion of this grant. The Curtner and Stanford places are included in it. Jose de Jesus Vallejo claimant for Arroyo del Alameda, four square leagues, granted August 30, 1842, by Juan B. Alvarado, containing 17,-705.38 acres. Patented January 1, 1858, (Niles and Decoto lie within this grant). Andres Pico et al., claimants for Mission San Jose lands, 30,000 acres, granted May 5, 1846, by Pio Pico to Andres Pico and Juan B. Alvarado; claim filed March 9, 1852; confirmed by the commission December 18, 1855, and rejected by the court June 30, 1859. (This grant was known as the ex-mission lands. Squatters settled on them, and what was called squatters' rights caused many quarrels between them and adverse claimants, but in December, 1867, the United States issued patents to bonafide settlers, after much trouble and expense to them, thus ending one of the fiercest agrarian disputes that has ever occurred in this section. The villages of Mission San Jose, Irvington, Newark and Centreville are located on these lands.) Thomas Pacheco and Augustin Alviso, claimants for Fotero de los Cerritos, three square leagues, granted Mach 23, 1844, by Manuel Micheltorena to T. Pacheco and A. Alviso, 10,610.26 acres. Patented February 21, 1866. (The land lying from Newark in the direction of and including Alvarado lies in this tract). It is a pathetic fact that no descendant of these Spanish-Americans who held such princely domains occupy any part of the property or live in the valley now, although the heirs of Thomas Higuera own some portion of Los Tularcitos.

Archbishop Joseph Sardoc Alemany, claimant for Mission San Jose, founded under Carlos IV, June 11, 1797; claim filed February 19, 1853, containing 28.33 acres. Patented March 3, 1858. Apparently these few acres are all that are left to the church that formerly had dominion over thousands. The boundaries of the grants were the streams, natural landmarks, and sometimes ditches dug for that purpose. On the George W. Patterson place, the old Pacheco ditch can still be traced, running down into "The Willows." The sons have placed their telephone poles along the line of it. The Sanjon de los Alisos was the boundary between the Pacheco and Alviso grant and the ex-mission lands. The years from 1833 to 1850 have been called "the golden days of hospitality and good fellowship." The padres and generous Spaniards welcomed every guest and set before him milk, cheese,

mutton, beef, tortillas, figs, grapes and wild honey. Potatoes were few, but pinole was plentiful.

A native liquor said to resemble cognac, called aguardiente, and very intoxicating, was the favorite tipple. Mescal, a liquor made from the prickly pear, was also liked, and brandy and wine were to be had. Hemp, flax, wheat and corn were grown, and also melons and squashes. Soap, leather, wool, salt, soda, harness, saddles, blankets and clumsy vehicles were manufactured. A horse was freely given to any in need of one. The young women were handsome, and all were devotees of the church. The men were generous, fearless, hospitable and expert equestrians. At every social gathering at the mission the guests came from all parts of the country. The Peraltas, the Castres, Higueras, Sotes, Estudillos, Alvisos, Vallejos, Bernals, Amadors, Sunols, Pachecos, Noreigas and Livermores (who married a Higuera) gathered there on festive occasions. These were the wealthy, landed proprietors of the country far and near, and lived in a kind of feudal style, the Indians their vassals. Except for the luxuriant gardens of the Mission, and the vegetables and cereals grown by the rancheros, the country was covered with acres and acres of wild oats, tall enough, within the memory of the first American pioneers, to tie over the head of a man on horseback. Wild mustard from six to fifteen feet high rolled in golden billows over the valley and up the hillsides, and birds nested and sang among the blossoms.

The mountains bordering the canons were more densely timbered than now, game was abundant, elk and deer were common, and an occasional "grizzly" gave a spice of danger to the hunter. Wild geese and ducks literally swarmed in the marshes and lagoons, while the bark of the coyote, now seldom heard, was incessant through the night. Then there were the Indians, a few rancheros, cattle and horses grazing the hills unherded, and the little settlement of pueblos. In other parts of this history the reader is told how the changes came. How, with gold discovery in 1848, the sleepy old Mission woke up and became an important trading point; how, over the old Stockton road through the Mission Pass, where Fremont and his men had journeyed, a continuous stream of hardy miners and pioneers came and went; how fortunes were made and lost, and how from that time the lands of this valley were coveted and finally obtained by Americans. Under the trees in the old churchyard of the Mission and in the shadow of the church, sleep many whose names appear in these pages, and who were prominently connected with the early history, not only of the valley and county, but of the state. Some, too, rest peacefully in the Odd Fellows' cemetery at Irvington or the cemeteries in Centreville and Decoto; others lie far away from the scenes

of their busy life here, while a handful of the sturdy old pioneers survive, honored by all who know them. John M. Horner, now living in Hawaii, was the first American settler, coming to California in 1846 in the celebrated ship, Brooklyn. Mr. Horner settled near the present village of Irvington in 1847. His brother William Y., father of the present supervisor, joined him some time after, and they had extensive business interests. They were enterprising, generous men. E. L. Beard came to the Mission in 1849. He became interested with Mr. Horner in land and agriculture, and afterward with his stepson, Henry G. Ellsworth. The noble old palms planted by Mr. Beard on his home place (the Gallegos place) are fitting memorials of this interesting and large-hearted pioneer. Henry C. Smith was also one of the first comers. A very bright man, who was early identified with the political history of the state and county. There were several more of these brave argonauts, but their names, with those of the hardy pioneers are appended to this history, and their lives enter into the records of the several towns where they lived.

The United States made a treaty of peace with Mexico in 1848, the year of gold discovery, and then California fell under the jurisdiction of the federal government. The first legislative assembly of the state convened in San Jose in December, 1849, and created twenty-seven counties, among them Contra Costa and Santa Clara. In March, 1853, Alameda county was formed from portions of these two, and Washington Township is the greater part of that which came from Santa Clara. The county seat was located at New Haven, now Alvarado. H. C. Smith was at that time in the legislature, and fathered the bill making the new county. A body called the court of sessions had entire control of the civil business, and organized June 6, 1853, dividing the county at once into six townships, viz.: Contra Costa, Clinton, Oakland, Eden, Murray and Washington, named for the "father of his country." In December there was a redivision, and Contra Costa was eliminated. In 1855 the court of sessions was succeeded by the board of supervisors, and again the county was redistricted into Alameda, Brooklyn, Eden, Murray, Oakland and Washington townships, and in 1902 Pleasanton was formed from a part of Murray. In 1850 there was a voting place at H. C. Smith's store, Mission San Jose. When the county was constructed another polling place was added at the room used as a courthouse in New Haven, and very soon Horner's schoolhouse at Centreville made a third. The election for the purpose of voting on the question of removing the county seat to San Leandro was held December 30, 1854, and in every precinct in the county an astonishing number of votes were polled. Mission San Jose cast 203, New Haven or

Alvarado 393, Centreville 170.; total in the township, 766, sixty-eight more than Oakland. The following year there was a great excitement over the question of licensing saloons, and we find the total number of votes cast in Washington was 351. In 1902 the number of registered voters was 1361. Centreville precinct 248, Irvington 238, Alvarado 219, Niles 195, Newark 177, Mission 168 and Decoto 116.

When the first Americans made their homes here there was no Oakland, no Alameda, no Berkeley. Therefore in the first years of county government Washington ruled in matters political, securing the county seat and nearly all of the county offices, as follows: A. M. Crane, county judge; Wm. Coombs, district attorney; A. M. Church, county clerk; J. S. Marston, county treasurer; Andrew H. Broder, sheriff; Wm. H. Chamberlain, coroner; and Rev. W. W. Brier, superintendent of schools. The names of the men, so far as can be learned, who have since been public officials, although not altogether in the order named, are the late Hon. John L. Beard, state senator and regent of the state university; the Hon. M. W. Dixon, Thomas Scott, James Clark, and John G. Mattos, Jr. (now serving) assemblymen.

P. E. Edmundsen, C. C. Breifogle, and R. A. McClure, county treasurers; H. M. Vesey, county clerk; W. F. B. Lynch and P. M. Fisher, county superintendents of schools; Dr. J. M. Selfridge, coroner; J. A. Mayhew, sheriff; C. J. Stevens, tax collector; E. H. Dyer, county surveyor; Chas. Whipple, public administrator; and supervisors, H. C. Smith, J. R. Mason, Jonathan Mayhew, James Shinn, C. S. Eigenbrodt, H. Overacker, Sr., Wm. Threlfall, J. M. Horner, Wm. Whidden, M. W. Dixon, Henry Dusterberry and C. F. Horner, the present representative of the supervisorial district.

Among the first acts passed by the first board of supervisors was one creating three school districts and one for the protection of trees planted along the roadsides. In 1862 a movement was inaugurated to get Washington back into Santa Clara county, but failed. June 16, 1856, the supervisors formed another township out of parts of Washington and Eden, and named it Jefferson, but this action was rescinded at the next meeting. In 1863 the legislature passed the following act: "Whenever the board of supervisors shall have created a new township from Washington and Eden, including Alvarado, it shall have power to elect one supervisor."

In 1870 the Bay Spring Water Company filed articles of incorporation to supply Mission San Jose and other towns with water from Barry and Story springs. The capital stock was \$50,000, the number of shares 500, and time of existence fifty years. The

same year a company was granted the right to operate a horse railroad from Irvington to San Leandro, through Centreville, Alvarado and San Lorenzo.

The first roads, and they were but little better than trails, were those used by the native Californians in going from their ranches to and from the Mission and their embarcaderos. From the Mission there was one to the pueblo of San Jose, one through the pass to Stockton, and one to the principal embarcadero, where Union City was afterward located. This, according to some of the old settlers, took the course of the high ground to where Centreville is now, then branched off by Pacheco's to the Alameda, somewhere near the Bell ranche bridge, and followed the high bank of the creek to the embarcadero. Others think it ran along the present course of the mountain road, only nearer the hills, then deflected, striking the creek at the Kelsey ford, and then followed the bank as before. All agree that there was a road following along the base of the hills to the creek ford at Niles, running to Castro's, now Haywards, or near there, and so on to what was San Antonio. There were these two well-known fords, Vallejo's Mills and the one between the Overacker and Shinn places on the Kelsey ranche, now the Marshall Noyo farm. In 1851-2 the Horners surveyed into 160-acre tracts, and fenced 10,000 acres of ex-mission lands, and laid out some of the main roads which are the principal thoroughfares at the present time. One of these ran from Irvington to Union City, but E. L. Beard fenced on the north side that part of this road extending from Centreville to the farther boundary of the late Hon. John L. Beard's home-stead. The cost of cutting this road through the swamp near Alvarado, and making it passable for teams, was \$1,500. It was originally one hundred feet wide, but has been narrowed since. It is a part of the county road running from San Jose to Oakland, which is bordered by trees most of the way and much traveled. The same parties also built two bridges at Alvarado, where the present ones are now. One of these the county afterward paid for. The same parties constructed the mountain road from Mission Pass to Vallejo's Mills, one from Irvington intersecting this, and the one from Centreville to the mountain road. Although these roads were not so substantially built as now, it must be remembered that none of the modern road-making implements were to be had then, and the work was done mostly with pick, shovel and ax. In 1852 the road from the mission to Union City was declared a public highway, and also the one "leading from the county line east of Mission San Jose to said Mission, thence through the Stockton pass."

Soon after the organization of the county three road districts were ordered in the township: No. 1, the highway from Mission San Jose to Union City, two miles each side thereof; No. 2, the road leading from Mission San Jose towards San Jose to county line; No. 3, the highway leading from Mission San Jose to Stockton, to the crossing of Alameda creek. There are now seven. The boards of supervisors have been diligent in improving the old roads and laying out others as necessity arose. All are oiled or sprinkled, and there are few better ones anywhere.

In 1852 the first stage began to make regular trips between the Mission and Union City. This was "Horner's stage," and ran along the line of the present road, connecting with a steamer owned by the same party, which, under command of Capt. Trefry, plied between Union City and San Francisco, often carrying from one to two hundred passengers. The stage continued to run regularly until '54, when it was abandoned. A regular stage line had been established, however, between San Jose and San Antonio as early as 1853. The route was by Warm Springs, which had become such a resort that a postoffice was established there (or at least mail had to be left). From there the stage ran to Mission San Jose, and thence along the mountain road to San Antonio, afterward East Oakland. Probably McLaughlin's was the first through line running by way of "The Corners" and Centreville. In 1856 the Camerons put on opposition coaches, and exciting times followed. The fare came down to \$1, or less, the trip. Old settlers laugh now when they speak of Cameron's galloping bronchos and the famous runs they made. Ashley Cameron of Centreville held the reins, and never failed to deliver the mail on time, although sometimes obliged to forsake the stage and walk the fences across stretches of high water. He also carried and threw with unerring hand the Alta Californian to subscribers along the way as the bronchos flew onward. It is said that when they were fairly under way no stop could be made for way passengers. In times of high water, mud wagons were used instead of coaches, and even these were not infrequently "stuck in the mud." At such times the men passengers were of necessity compelled to get down and help pry out before the journey could be continued. Although this seems a prosaic employment, at least one romance began in the Alvarado slough, for it was there that two of our old settlers first met.

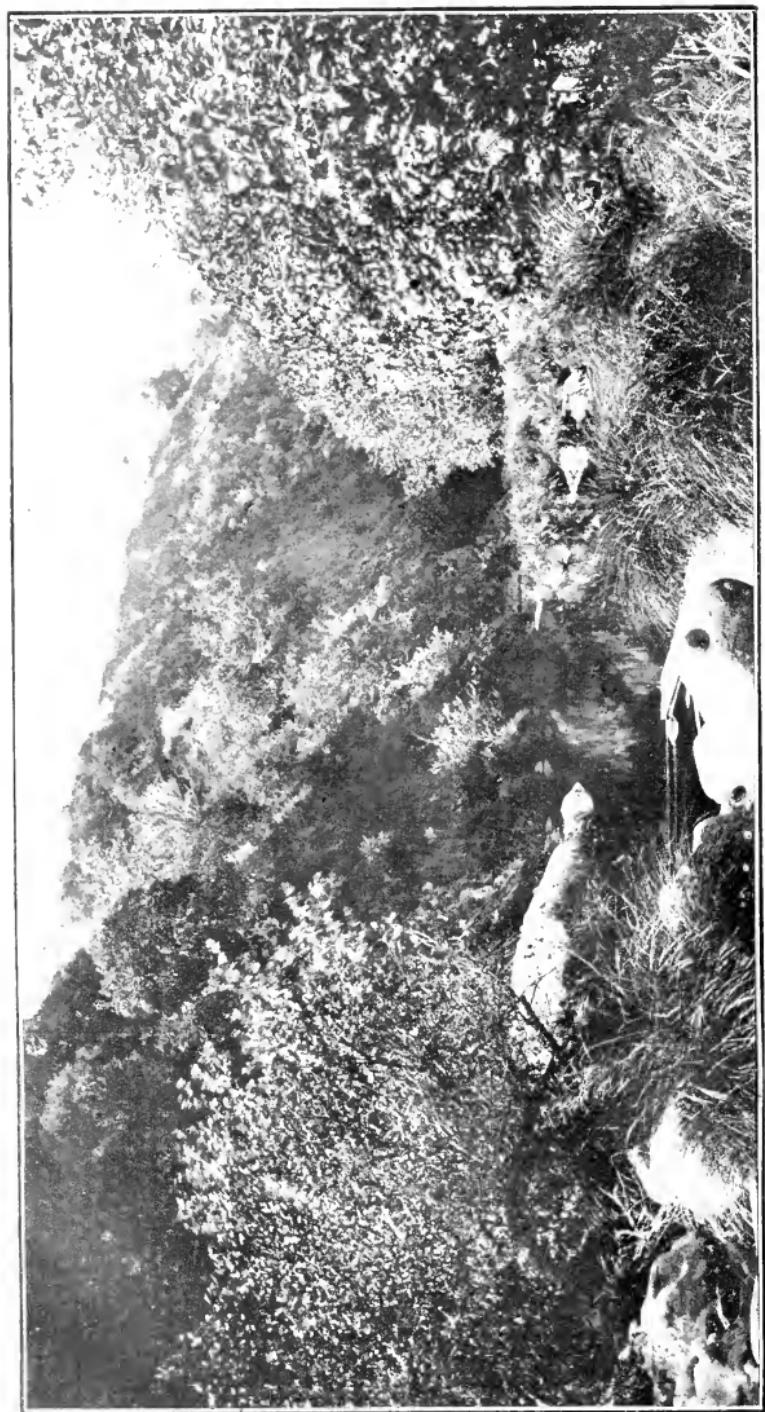
An interesting feature of these trips was the fact that the steamer at San Antonio could not wait for the stage, if it chanced to be late, for the boat had to go with the tide, which waits for no man. Then Mr. Cameron would hurry his passengers into light wagons and rush them across to what is now Alameda,

arriving before the steamer made the landing at that point. The stages continued to run to San Antonio until the railroad was completed to Haywards, when that was made the objective point. But when the railroad service was extended to Oakland they were discontinued. Hoag was the first expressman with his pony and cart, and after him came the Bamber Brothers.

The following description of the appearance of the valley in early American days will interest many. It is written by Bayard Taylor, the traveler, poet and scholar, who went through it in '49, tramping to Monterey, and going muleback from San Jose to Stockton. In '53 he came again with his wife, this time staging from San Jose to San Antonio, now East Oakland. Of his trip in '49 he writes: "The valley is well watered, and may be made to produce the finest wheat crops in the world. It is dotted all over its surface with clumps of magnificent oaks, cypresses and sycamores. * * * Sheltered from the cold winds of the sea the climate is like that of Italy. * * * The Mission (San Jose), a spacious stone building with courtyard and long corridors, is built upon the lower slope of the mountains dividing San Francisco Bay from the San Joaquin valley, and a garden extends behind it along the banks of a little stream. The sight of a luxuriant orchard peeping over the top of its mud walls was too tempting to be resisted, so, leaving Lieut. Beale to jog ahead with Tompkins and the loose animals, Col. Lyons and myself rode up the hill, scrambled over, and found ourselves in a wilderness of ripening fruit. Hundreds of pear and apple trees stood almost breaking with their harvest, and cartloads lay rotting on the ground. Plums, grapes, figs, and other fruits not yet ripened filled the garden. There is no such wheat country in the world. Even with the imperfect plowing of the natives, which does little more than scratch the surface, the earth produces a hundred fold. * * * I was told by an old settler in the valley of San Jose of a ranchero who planted twenty fanegas (Spanish bushels) of wheat, from which he harvested the first year 1,020 fanegas; the second year, without resowing, he reaped 800, and the third 600 fanegas. * * * I saw corn green and fresh, although no rain had fallen for four months. Vegetables thrive luxuriantly, and melons, squashes, beans and potatoes require no further care than planting. * * * A Frenchman named Vigne made 100 barrels of wine from a vineyard of about six acres at Mission San Jose. Many clusters of grapes weigh four or five pounds and in bloom, richness and flavor rival the choicest growth of Tuscany on the Rhine. * * * The soft, cloudless sky, the balmy atmosphere, the mountain ranges stretching far before me until they vanished in purple haze, the sealiike sweep of the plain, with islands and shores of dark green

foliage, combined to form a landscape which I may have seen equaled but never surpassed. When these great ranches are properly divided, and thousands live where units now are living there will be no more desirable place of living on the Pacific coast.' In 1853 he says: "The land appeared to be tolerably well divided into farms, the fields fenced with redwood regardless of expense, and the most superb orchards and vineyards springing up everywhere. We were obliged to stop at Warm Springs, which lies off the road, on account of the mail. The national flag which floated over a clump of sycamores and live oaks announced a hotel, a pleasant retreat. A shady verandah opened upon a garden of flowers in the midst of which a fountain played." This was under the regime of the Columbets. The stage drove on through the Mission, but he found, he says, "a thriving village; the former peaceful seclusion was gone forever. From the Mission the road ran along the base of the hills, and we saw huge stacks of sheaves in immense wheatfields, flashing like perfect gold; the grain cleaner, purer, and more brilliant in color than any we had ever seen before."

Washington township, in general terms, is bounded north by Eden and Murray townships, east by Murray, south by Santa Clara county, and west by San Francisco Bay. The area is 108,-316.11 acres. The greater part lies in the level valley, with a background of foothills and mountains, and next the bay is a fringe of marsh land of about 10,000 or 15,000 acres, mostly reclaimable. Lying along the bay for a little distance, however, is a line of curious, isolated hills, the Los Cerritos, which gives a pretty touch to the landscape. The Contra Costa branch of the coast range runs the entire length of the valley at an average distance of six miles from the bay, and is cut at intervals by canons, most of them more or less wooded with maple, bay manzanita, madrono, poplar, buckeye, some oak, although this appears mostly on the open hills and plains, sycamore, alder, wild cherry, which closely resembles holly, and chapparal. There are also many ferns, vines and shrubs, including the dainty white waxberry, and the toyon, said to grow only in the Coast Range; a shrub growing from six to ten or fifteen feet high, and bearing in winter great clumps of the beautiful red California Christmas berries. Alameda canon, a gorge of wild and romantic beauty, is a cut extending entirely through the mountains. The sides are high, rugged and precipitous, with broken steeps often wooded to the tops, which here and there fall back, leaving open grassy spaces fringed with laurel, masses of shrubbery and tangled vines. Alameda creek runs from Sunol valley through it on its way to the bay. A well-oiled road now takes the place of the former rude trail, affording a



VIEW IN ALAMEDA CANYON

drive of much interest and scenic beauty from Niles to Sunol; and the S. P. R. R. trains entering the canon at the former place, thirty-three miles from San Francisco, steam through to Livermore, Stockton and Sacramento, giving connections with the east, and also south with Fresno and Los Angeles.

Morrison canon, a little to the south of Alameda, is perhaps two miles long, and ends on the tops of the hills which are cultivated and where the fruit ripens in the orchards a little later than in the valley. The sides of this pretty little ravine are well wooded. The southern bank is said to have the largest variety of wild flowers of any place in the township, and in it there are never-failing springs of water. This and other canons are well worth visiting, especially the beautiful one through which Stony Brook dashes and gurgles on its way to meet the Alameda, and the glen where the Warm Springs are situated.

Alameda creek, from which the county takes its name, has its source far up in the Mt. Hamilton range, and, running down towards the valleys, is joined by the Calaveras, Arroyo Honda, San Antonio, Arroyo Valle and other mountain streams. Reaching Sunol valley it lazily broadens out, and then narrows again as it reaches the great canon through which long ago it cleft a channel on its way to the sea. At the pretty village of Niles, the Vallejo's Mills of the old days, the creek enters this valley and runs a somewhat crooked course westerly until it empties into the bay beyond Alvarado. It is the most important stream in the county, and formerly its entire course was marked by heavily-wooded banks of sycamore, willow and other trees. Hence the name Alameda—shaded way. More properly speaking, perhaps, the different channels were so traced, for indisputably there were more than one. Without doubt the San Sanjon de los Alisos described in the Centreville history was originally the main stream. In summer, the bed of the Alameda is dry in many places, the water sinking and reappearing again further along. But this droning summer brook in some winters becomes a swollen and tumultuous torrent, and since the American occupation has at times overflowed its banks, and cut other channels, as well as filling all of the old ones, doing considerable damage but also much good by drowning gophers and covering the land with rich alluvial deposits. The Spring Valley Water Company of San Francisco in the early '70s began purchasing riparian rights along the creek, and later built dams and aqueducts, and conveyed the water in conduits to and under the bay to San Francisco, making this a part of the water supply of that city. The people, fearing that the water would be diverted from the township by this company to the injury of the farms and orchards, organized in 1871

a ditch company called the Washington and Murray Township Water Company, incorporated, for the ostensible purpose of preserving the waters of the Alameda for the benefit of the settlers, ensuring thereby a sufficient flow of water in the summer for the protection of trees and all other practical purposes. This purpose has been defeated, however, by the Spring Valley Company, which claims to own all of the water of the creek by virtue of the purchase of all riparian rights up and down the stream, and unappropriated water; and the company also endeavors to prove by legal reasoning that the ditch company never had any rights. In like manner the Contra Costa Water Company of Oakland purchased a considerable tract of land in Alvarado in the artesian belt, established a pumping plant, and piped the water to Oakland. Since then the subterranean supply has been materially lowered, so that hand pumps have had to be resorted to, because water in wells that formerly flowed through and over a pipe five or eight feet above the ground is now that much below the surface.

Besides the Alameda there are two other creeks of some importance, Mission Creek flowing from the mountains down into Mission San Jose and always giving a good supply of water; on this creek was the primitive adobe flour mill of the padres and the better one of Beard and Ellsworth. This stream empties into the lagoon, but the outlet to the lagoon is through Irvington and finally into the Bay. The stream flowing through the lower end of Mission Pass joins Mission Creek near the electric power house. Segunda, or Dry Creek, is the other one mentioned which reaches the valley at Decoto, and joins the Alameda near Alvarado. There are, however, several springs in the township, giving home supplies of water, from which small brooks flow. From the Bay numerous tide water creeks or sloughs put into the mainland, affording landing places for sloops and schooners and are much used for commercial purposes. These landings were the *embarcaderos* of the Spanish-Mexican days.

Probably no place in California has a better all around climate, although within the limits of the township, even, there is some diversity owing to topography altitude, currents of air, etc. But anywhere the winters are mild yet bracing, with rain and sunshine alternating, and the summers, with cool westerly trade winds prevailing, have little discomfort. Snow is not infrequently seen on the mountain tops, but seldom falls in the valley; and although sharp frosts may continue for several consecutive nights, even freezing water and the earth, yet strangely enough flowers bloom on from one year's end to another. The fruit, as well as other deciduous trees, drop their leaves in autumn, but the pepper, with

its graceful habit and wealth of red berries, the Australian eucalyptus standing tall against the skyline, the live and other oaks of similar character, the tropical-looking palms, the orange, lemon, loquat and olive, the cypress, pine and redwood trees, together with the fresh green of the hills give to the landscape a verdant appearance, so that by vegetation the seasons are scarcely marked. Nothing can be more beautiful than the fields and hillsides in late winter and early spring covered with richest verdure and studded with the gorgeous yellow and orange of the great California poppies, mingled with the varied colors of many other wild flowers. All winter the joyous song of the clear-throated meadowlark greets one from the trees, telephone wires and fences; early in March the almond orchards are white with bloom and other orchard blossoms follow in succession, and then other bird songs are heard—for in spite of the indiscriminate shooting that has prevailed, in a morning hour of last September twenty-seven different kinds were counted from Bell Ranche bridge.

Perhaps it is proper here to say a few words about earthquakes which have so fearsome a sound to the strangers in our midst. But one has been of serious import within the memory of the "oldest inhabitant," that of 1868, mentioned elsewhere. These dreaded upheavals may consist of "a sudden jarring of the earth, sometimes accompanied by a short rumbling noise, followed by a few quick vibratory motions, and all is over; although occasionally two or three shocks follow consecutively." These are seemingly preferable to the blizzards, cyclones, gales, tornadoes and dreadful electrical storms of the eastern States.

Probably the best hay in the world is wild oat hay, which here grows to perfection. The different clovers, grasses and alfilaria are mostly annuals, starting up fresh and green with the rains of winter, curing on the ground as summer comes on, and affording excellent pasturage, sweet and nutritious until the rains fall again to start the fresh new feed. Except for the stubble fields after the hay and grain are off, and the marsh meadows, the uplands and hills are the pasture and grazing lands; although there also a good deal of hay and grain are raised.

In the winter between rains the farmer tills his land, the horticulturist cultivates his orchards, and the vegetable grower is always busy with one crop after another. In May, haying time, there are sometimes late showers, when watchfulness is necessary to avert injury. After that, rain is rarely seen before late October, or early November; then the southerly winds bring in the wished for showers, which continue off and on until in May, blowing in through the "Golden Gate" the trade winds come again. These bring long and comfortable days when the farmer unconcerned by fears

of storms, harvests and threshes his grain, piling up his filled sacks in the fields until a convenient time to haul them to the warehouse or send the grain to market. These days are busy ones for the orchardist, as one after another the crops of cherries, apricots, peaches, plums, pears and prunes ripen; but between the different harvests he may find time when with his family he can go for a camping trip or some other outing. The vintage comes in the autumn, also the gathering of almonds and other nuts, and then the sugar-beet grower is busy digging and drawing to the mill his saccharine vegetables. Olives are gathered in winter. The small fruit and vegetable growers market their produce the year round.

The proportion of tillable land to pasture and marsh land is greater here than in any other township of the county, and this, too, is one of the finest agricultural districts in the State. The soil varies from a rich dark loam, six to fifteen feet deep, with a substratum of sand and gravel in the valley, to the lighter soil of the foothills and high hills beyond. There is some adobe in places, which is heavy and sticky, yet if continually worked, as it is rich in nutritive qualities and retains moisture, it gives abundant returns; in fact, the earth is everywhere fertile.

The hills are cultivated to the tops, and on these sunny slopes early vegetables are grown for the city market. Bees do well and poultry raising has become quite an industry.

What wonder that with so many advantages the valley and uplands have become a succession of gardens, orchards, vineyards and grain fields?

As this township was the first part of Alameda county to be settled by Americans, so here the first experiments in agriculture, not only in the locality, but in the State, were begun, amazing those who made them by the amount and size of the productions.

Wm. Simm, in 1853, shipped from Irvington to the World's Fair, New York City, in hermetically sealed cases, samples of California grain which attracted much attention. There were oat stalks ten feet three inches in height, with heads twenty-two to twenty-eight inches in length. Also the product of a single grain of wheat, viz.: seventy spears, or stalks, having four thousand two hundred grains or kernels, and some wheat heads consisting of from fifty to eighty grains in a head.

Horticulture began, of course, with the Mission fathers, and before the discovery of gold we read that grapes, pears and other fruit were regularly supplied from the Mission to General Sutter.

When gold mining began, vegetables and fruit brought fabulous prices. Onions were \$1 per pound; cabbages sold at \$1 per head; potatoes, 16 cents per pound; wheat, eleven cents, and barley from five to seven cents. As one acre produced 600 bushels of

onions, potatoes averaged three hundred bushels, and grain from fifty-six to seventy-five, it will readily be seen that the farmer had a veritable gold mine in his produce. Capt. Bond, of Centreville, at an early date sold blackberries for fifty cents per pound, and in 1863 cherries, the first raised, for sale in the valley for thirty cents per pound. John Proctor got \$1 apiece for pears.

Two Frenchmen kept a wayside house on the road which ran on the back part of the Jesse Beard (now the J. L. Beard) place, and there raised vegetables for market. One of them procured some watercress seed from France and planted it near the house in a bend of the creek, and from this the other streams in this valley may have been supplied.

The Americans who settled here soon procured cuttings from the Mission orchard and fruit trees from the east.

In 1853, Earl Marshall had three hundred sent out by way of Panama, and about the same time E. L. Beard imported others, which were brought across the plains. Beard and Lewelling did quite a business in that line, and some of these old trees are still growing on the John Beard homestead, some at Crandall Slough and other places in the vicinity. Of the Marshall stock, Capt. Bond and George Loyd planted several trees in Centreville; on the Capt. Bond place a few of the apple trees remain, and on the Stivers' place, Irvington, are others.

The investment in these trees was extremely profitable for all concerned. John Proctor afterward started a nursery at Centreville. Then James Shinn established one on a large scale about half way between Centreville and Vallejo's Mills, importing rare trees from the Orient and other parts of the world; many of them are still growing on the home place—among others might be mentioned the carob tree, locust bean or St. John's bread, which is interesting because identified with the tree producing the husks eaten by the prodigal son, and the locusts of St. John the Baptist. B. D. T. Clough, of Niles, was also one of the early nurserymen and had a flourishing business. These are now all gone, but under the management of the veteran John Rock, the California Nursery Company, of Niles, has six hundred acres in fruit, ornamental trees and plants, shipping a vast amount of nursery stock far and near.

John M. Horner was the first man to demonstrate that vegetables and grain could be raised in California in paying quantities; the fame of his achievements went abroad and many eastern people believed that this valley was the only place in California where vegetables could be grown in appreciable quantities. His correspondence in regard to this belief was very amusing. Mr. Horner and his brother operated on a large scale. About the time pota-

toes became a drug in the market they turned their attention to grain, and built the big steam flouring mill at Alvarado. E. L. Beard was another large farmer, and with his stepson, H. G. Ellsworth, built a water mill at the Mission. Vallejo's Mill at the mouth of Alameda Canon made three in operation early in the history of the township. Many other pioneers engaged in grain raising, and all were astonished at the immense crops produced. The products now may be classed as grain and hay, fruits in great variety, from the loquat, fig, lemon and orange, to the apple.

The Mayhew orange grove at Niles, also Mrs. Pickering's, the Shinn's and Ellsworth's, Mr. Crowell's at Irvington, Mr. Curtner's at Warm Springs, and a small one of O. B. Simpson's, at Centreville, demonstrate what can be done in citrus fruits; but every man can have his own oranges and lemons in his garden if he so desires. The Imperial prunes raised by Senor Juan Gallegos, at Mission San Jose, are as fine as any in the famed Santa Clara County district, and everybody knows of the Vanderpeer apples at Alvarado. At Stony Brook, up near Mission Peak, on the C. S. Haley anche, and other places, excellent ones are also raised. There are the products of the gravel beds, the molder's sand quarries the stone quarries, and in addition to the industries already spoken of several others should be mentioned—stock-raising, dairying, poultry raising, the drying and curing of fruits and nuts, seed culture and the cut flower industry which is increasing in value. The salt and sugar works, the wineries, the car shops, foundry, planing mill, lumber and coal yards give employment to many men. Considerable wood is cut in the timbered hills, perhaps more than ought to be to ensure the preservation of the woods.

In early times there was, of course, only the Mission Church, but after the Americans came, the Latter Day Saints held services in the upper story of the adobe on the Naile place and soon after in Horner's school house in Centreville.

Early in the fifties, two Protestant organizations (Presbyterian and Methodist) were perfected in Centreville, and soon had church buildings. Now every village has one and some have two or three church edifices.

Originally school districts in the county had the same boundaries as the townships, but almost immediately others were formed, three first and then more; there are now fourteen in this township with comfortable school buildings in each. The first school taught, however, was at the Mission, when this township was a portion of Santa Clara County.

In 1856, there were but nineteen teachers employed in the county, at an average salary of \$76.70 per month; thirty-eight

are now teaching in this township in the high and grammar schools, ten men and twenty-eight women.

The salary list for the school year of 1903 and 1904 amounted to almost \$3,000 per month; the average salary for men was about \$99 per month, and for women a little over \$72.

The schools rank well—in 1899 a girl graduated from the Centreville grammar school with the highest standing of any examined by the County Board of Education, and the following year one from the little country district of Rosedale carried off like honors; it is pleasant to chronicle that both attended high school and that one is now studying in the State University.

In 1890, the Legislature passed the Union High School law, and under its provisions twelve districts in the township united to establish a high school.

The trustees of these districts met at Centreville, and on the eighth ballot to determine a location, Centreville was chosen. The site of two acres on the Centreville-Niles road was donated by the citizens of the village and vicinity and afterward the Board of Trustees purchased an acre additional.

School was opened in 1893 in the Masonic building, with two teachers, Mr. William Wentworth, principal, and Miss G. R. Crocker assistant, and twenty-two pupils were immediately enrolled; the reputation of being one of the best schools in the State was at once established, and this standard has been jealously maintained. In 1893 the present fine building was finished at a cost, including other improvements, of nearly \$11,000. Trees, shrubs and flowers were planted which now make the place very attractive. The first year there was one graduate, and the next two; but the banner class in point of numbers, twelve, was that of '96. In 1903 there was a large entering class, and the enrollment is now about seventy, with a corps of five teachers. The course of study must be prepared or sanctioned by the Board of Trustees, and approved by the County Board of Education; the text-books must be those recommended by the State Board. The school is fully accredited and prepares for all courses in the State University; the faculty has always been composed of excellent scholars and teachers—two of them have been graduates of the school and of the State University.

The pupils generally have reflected credit upon the school and teachers, a good proportion of them have taken college work in California or Stanford, and were known as good students; several have been graduated from the Normal Schools and are teaching successfully in the township or elsewhere. Some have been distinguished on the foot-ball and base-ball 'varsity teams.

In 1902, Alvarado joined the union, so that at present all dis-

tricts except Stony Brook belong to the high school district. The rate of taxation for the support of the school has varied, but for 1903 and 1904 it was .07 on the hundred; the State aid received, according to the new law, for the first year is about \$1,100. The first president of the Board of Trustees was H. A. Mayhew, Niles, and the first secretary was L. F. Jarvis, of Newark, who resigned upon removing to Oakland; to his untiring care much of the beauty of the grounds is due.

There are no incorporated towns within the limits of the township, but the several villages are thriving business places. Two lines of the S. P. R. R. run through, about five miles apart, and surveys have been made, presumably for a competing road. It is likely but a question of time when the different villages will be connected with electric roads. Telephone and electric light lines run everywhere.

The Portuguese population was represented early in the '50s. The first comers were four sailors, in 1852, who were immediately employed in the harvest fields on the Naile place, now Mrs. Kate Overacker's. Two of these made permanent homes very soon; Frank Rose buying land near the hills on the mountain road, and Frank Silva Joulin eventually purchasing near Mowry's; another Frank Rose remained two or three years working in the vicinity then returned to the Azores, married, went to New England and finally returned here. The fourth left after the harvest was over. Many more have settled in the valley since then and own some of the best small farms. They are an industrious and thrifty people, taking pride in building neat homes and cultivating their farms.

Situated near Decoto, on the foothills of the Contra Costa range and commanding a superb view, is the Masonic Home, a prominent landmark, seen from most points in the valley. The buildings, considered architecturally, and with the site, are not surpassed by any like institution in the United States. They stand for an expression of what the fraternity feels that it owes to aged and unfortunate brethren, their mothers, wives, widows and orphans; this is not thought of as a charity, but rather as a duty gladly performed for the amelioration of hardships in the lives of old and less fortunate members of the masonic order. Certainly no more beautiful or practical manifestation of this sentiment could have been planned.

Few of the buildings of early days remain now—one only of those built by the Mission priests—this is the old adobe which was used as a store. The tiled roof has been replaced by shingles and a framed addition attached to the end, which detracts from an otherwise picturesque appearance. It is hoped that the Church will restore and preserve this link which connects us with

the venerable past of the padres. In Niles is a part of Vallejo's Mills, fast crumbling away, an adobe house standing in the California Nursery's grounds, and another at Warm Springs are perhaps the only adobes left.

On the Niles-Irvington road, the house built by J. M. Horner still stands, doing duty as a barn and dove-cote; the old "Horner's School House" is not far from the warehouse in Irvington. A part of the zinc-roofed house brought by Timothy Rix "around the Horn," can still be seen near the same village. The Torry house in Centreville; the ranche house built by E. L. Beard, on what is now the Eugene Stevenson place, an interesting reminder of the primitive ranching days, these and a few others are all that remain of the old-time buildings.

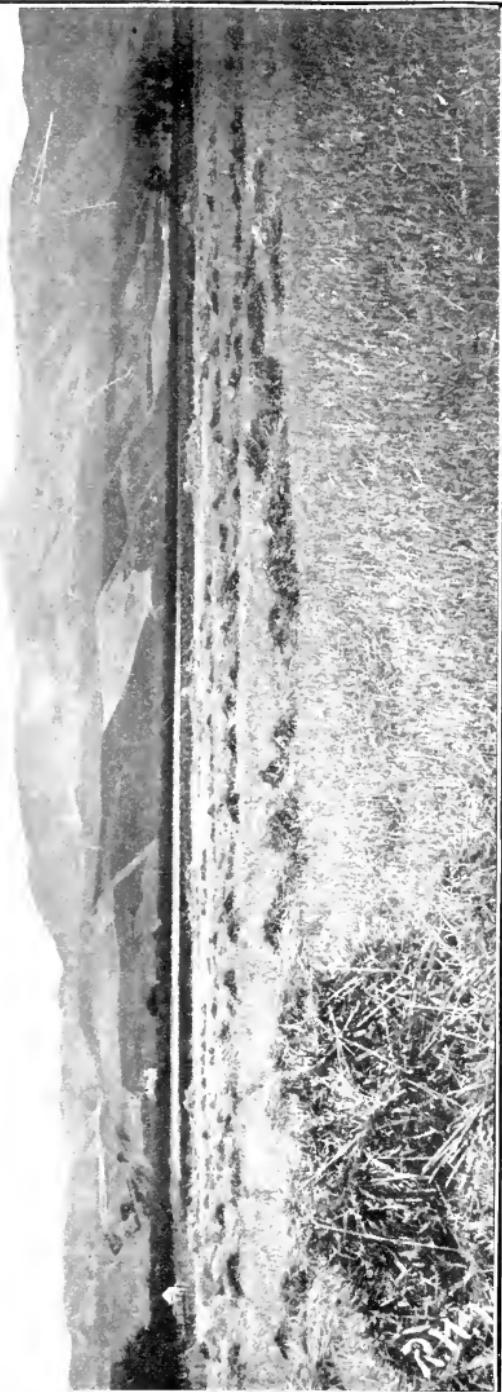
The Indian burying ground, belonging to the Mission church, where the remnant of a once numerous people is buried, and which will soon receive the last one, lies on a sunny hillside, between the Mission and Irvington, forlorn and neglected—typical of the race.

This spot should be fenced and cared for. There are in different parts of the township several natural landmarks of interest. The low line of softly-rounded, undulating hills already mentioned as lying next the Bay, called Los Cerritos by the Spaniards, by the Americans less euphoniously dubbed Coyote Hills, and again the Lone Hills, are worth noting. They are quite different from the high hills on the other side of the valley, and seem to be of the same formation as a portion of San Francisco; whether there is a dip under the Bay or not, there appears on this side, first, an island, and then these hills composed of a red rock which rapidly disintegrates on exposure to the elements. Apparently they stop rather abruptly near Jarvis' Landing, with upstanding rocks along the slope, but after quite a sweep of marsh and tide-water ditches, two or three little knobs rise up in succession and these are the end.

From the center of the township and farther west one can see, looking easterly, Mt. Hamilton and the white globe of Lick Observatory; in the far northwest, Mt. Tamalpais; on the north side of Alameda Canon, Sunol Peak, over two thousand feet high, and beyond Mission Peak range, the Calaveras Mountains, frequently white with snow in winter.

Directly above Warm Springs is an extinct volcano. Although in plain sight from the valley, one should visit it to see the peculiar appearance of the old crater, (which has two mouths)—the geological formation of rocks at its western rim and the never-failing cone-shaped hill in the center. Near one of the crater's openings is a group of wild cherry trees about sixty in number, not growing in a thicket as elsewhere, but as individual trees, which is quite un-

MISSION PEAK



usual. In the mouth of the crater giant red clover grows rank and lush. In 1860, fifty tons were mowed there with a scythe by Mr. Wm. Barry. South of this crater is Monument Peak, marking the boundary of the township and county, and so designated in the acts creating them.

The landmark that dominates the whole region, however, is Mission Peak, with its scarred front, the result of ancient and more recent landslides. It has been variously estimated to be from 2275 to 2900 feet high, and although the former estimate appears in several histories, the authority for it seems unknown. Whitney gives the height as 2566 feet, and Dr. Lorenzo Yates, a noted scientist, formerly resident of the township, measuring with a barometer made it 2750. He also found at the base fossil elephants, mastodons, llamas, tigers, wolves, etc., and at the top rare land shells and fossils. The rounded point just south he computed to be about 300 feet higher than the peak, although from its position it is not so noticeable. There is a big flat stone on the top of this point, and upon it is carved the initials of a name with a date. Ten years later, cut by the same hand, appears the same lettering, the date only changed. It is told that the man who fashioned this inscription had made a vow to return every ten years as long as he lived and repeat his work. The years have come and gone, but no later record has been added. Who was this stranger? Is he living, or has he passed over the great divide?

Perhaps the denizens of this valley are so accustomed to the sight of Mission Peak that they fail to appreciate the dignity and individuality which it gives to the landscape. Whether the outlines, snow-capped may be, are sharp and distinct on a clear, frosty morning in winter, or overspread with the purple afterglow of a summer sunset; whether rising grim and rugged against black storm clouds, or emerging into sunlight from unwinding fogwreaths, the mountain has a majesty of its own. The rain torrents of winter have for ages beaten upon it, the scorching heat of summer suns have fallen upon it, but unmindful of the elements, of changes wrought by men, this grand old peak stands overlooking the entire valley, a giant sentinel forever on guard. It is a singular fact that many living in the township, even some born and reared here, have never ascended this mountain. They have gone to Tamalpais, tramped to Diablo, and to other mountains farther off, ignorant of the vast and wonderful landscape to be seen from their own. Standing on the top, when the day is clear, we can see far in the east the shining summits of the high Sierras to Pyramid Peak, and beyond the Yosemite the snow peaks of the Lyell group. Spread out between is the great plain of the San Joaquin, and the smaller valleys of San Ramon, Livermore and Sunol. The canon

immediately in front drops down 2,000 feet into Rosedale, and on the other side are the serrated crags of the Calaveras. Far and faint in the south is the huge bulk of the Gabilans, while nearer is flat-topped Loma Prieta, and closer still the silver dome and clustered dwellings of Lick Observatory, with the higher top of Mount Hamilton behind. Due north rise the splendid double peaks of Monte Diablo, the giant of the Coast Range. Turning, the great valley, our own, stretching north and south and full of busy life, lies at our feet a variegated patchwork of orchards, gardens, farms, meadows, marshes and meandering streams. The Santa Cruz mountains, topped with their giant redwood forests, are in the southwest, and climbing over their foothills just where the narrow gauge railroad plunges into the mountains, is the beautiful village of Los Gatos. So near, that we look into the streets and see with a glass the trolley cars, which appear like toys as they speed back and forth from San Jose and Santa Clara. On the other side of the lower arm of the bay backed by the blue Palo Alto hills, and showing amidst magnificent groves of live oaks, are Palo Alto, Stanford University, Redwood City, Menlo Park and San Mateo. The trains running from Monterey to San Francisco and touching at these points are distinctly seen. Faint, yet plainly outlined away off in the northwest, is the superb solitary mass of Mt. St. Helena, and between it and San Francisco, the sleeping beauty, Mount Tamalpais. Between San Francisco on the far side, and Oakland and Alameda on this, dotted with specks of sails, numerous steamers, and ferry boats crossing and recrossing, are the shimmering waters of the great Bay of San Francisco, curving out to the Golden Gate. Here and there throughout the valley are the little towns not only of Washington township, but also of Eden. The old padres have moldered into dust, gone are the tepees of the Indians, the adobes of the Spanish-Americans, and their herds of grazing horses and wild cattle. The stage-coaches of the pioneer days have given place to electric lines, and the numerous railroad trains that steam up and down the valley and out through the mountains trailing airy ribbons of smoke—while scattered over the plain, nestling among the foothills, or built on natural terraces of the mountain sides, are pretty cottage homes and more pretentious country houses, where live an industrious and contented people.

It is not within the scope of this article to write fully of the varied interests of the township, which is fortunately situated on the continental side of the bay, and has great resources. The products include almost everything grown in the temperate zones, and many semi-tropical productions. Land is not cheap, because, when the owner can make from fifty to two hundred dollars per

acre it enhances in value. In educational, social and religious respects the inhabitants fare well. Aside from the excellent grammar schools, the high school and Anderson's academy, there are in close proximity the State University and Stanford, Mills' college for girls, Santa Clara for boys and men, and the technical and business schools of Oakland and San Francisco. There are good roads, and all of the modern requirements of good living can easily be obtained. Oysters, clams and fish are abundant in the waters, wild geese and ducks are in the marshes, quail, rabbit and sometimes deer are found in the plain and upland, stock and poultry thrive well, our dairy products are excellent, our manufactures are equal to any, and the climate is never extreme. But the greatest natural advantages are of little avail unless there are men to make them serve the beneficial purposes of mankind. Such men were the pioneers. Whether we and those who come after shall reap the profits of the future depends upon the energy and enterprise of our people.



The Mission of San Jose.

In February, 1697, three hundred years ago, two Spanish Jesuit fathers, Juan Maria Salvatierra and Francisco Ensebro Kino, asked permission of the King of Spain "to attempt the spiritual conquest of the Californias." Their request was granted, upon the distinct understanding that the country should be taken possession of in the name of the Spanish crown, and that the king should never be called upon for any of the expense attending the enterprise.

Lower California had been discovered some two hundred and fifty years before, and was supposed to be an island. Upper California, also supposed to be an island, directly adjoining Greenland, was well known to many Spanish navigators, who claimed to have sailed around it. These priests found no difficulty in collecting funds to an "aggregate of sufficient importance to find much mention from time to time thereafter, in both Spanish and Mexican history, as the 'Pious Fund of the Californias.'"

Thirteen missions were established in Lower California within seventy years, when in 1768, all Jesuits being banished from all Spanish possessions by the king, the Viceroy of Mexico was ordered to pass the work of the Jesuit missionaries over into the hands of the Franciscans. He appointed the marvellously endowed Father Junipero Serra of the convent of Zacatecas, Mexico, president of the missions. In 1769, a full century after the Pious Fund was started, the establishment of the missions in Upper California began, and it took forty years to complete this chain of twenty-two missions.

"Missionaries were to give place, as need of missionary work ceased, to secular clergy, and the mission churches were then to become parish churches."

As is well known, the missions were for the civilization of the Indians, but the colonization of California began at the same time. The missions were under ecclesiastic rule, but the government furnished soldiers and presidios to protect them and the pueblos, or towns, which it was hoped would spring up about them. To this end goodly grants of land were given to all who chose to come to the new land, and immigration, especially of the educated class of Spanish-Mexican people, was encouraged by the Mexican government. Therefore, at every mission were to be found a half dozen or more soldiers, and a few Spanish families with their Mexican retainers. As the Indians worked well

they were taken as servants by the Spanish families, hence the mixture of the Mexican and Indian races that began early in the century.

The first mention made of any governing body in California is of Gov. Senor Don Felipe Neve, in 1777. Twenty years later the Mission of San Jose was founded. On June 11th, 1797, Father de Luzuen came up from Santa Clara, placed the cross and chanted the litanies. This cross for many years marked the burial place of the dead, a small sacred enclosure, still close under the northern wing of the old church. Quaint old stones, illegible with age, with historic names all blurred, are clustered within, where to be on sacred ground, tier upon tier, one over the other, the dead lie buried.

With wonderful foresight these padres, reared in a vine-clad land, where fig and olive and fruits abound, saw the riches of these acres, and so obtained from the great San Jose pueblo (or town) lands, a mission site, some twelve miles to the north of San Jose and well up on the beautiful slopes of the peak, hence the name of Mission San Jose.

Fathers Ysidro Barcenilla and Augustine Merino were appointed the first missionaries, and with ten soldiers under command of a sergeant, laid the foundations of the mission. Acres upon acres of ripening grasses were waiting for the cattle portioned to them, villages upon villages of Indians were near, wood was plentiful, game everywhere, and workers at hand to be taught to harvest and to plant. Springs were near, and were soon walled in ready for use, and still supply water in abundance. So began, immediately, the building of the church, the necessary living rooms and courts. This work seems to have taken some ten years, not being finished until 1808. The work of christianizing the Indians also began immediately, for within a year, in September, 1797, one baptism is recorded. The dimensions of the old church were "one hundred and twenty-five feet long, and forty feet wide, with four foot walls twenty-four feet high." The rest of the bulidings were one story, fifty feet wide, room after room continuous about an enclosed court two hundred feet square, into which each room opened. Some were for guests, some for the monastery, others for school rooms, and living rooms for the unmarried Indians, and for the serape factory, where the clothes were woven. Within the courts were the priests' houses, which formed three sides of a smaller court. Within the outer court the Spanish and Indian population were wont to assemble to celebrate great holidays with immense feasts and barbecues. Fifteen acres were enclosed about the court by an adobe wall some ten feet high. The church facing the west met

the walls upon either side. Within and against the walls was a hedge of prickly pear—the Mexican nopal or tuna. Long rows of these hedges remained as late as 1853. Various needed buildings were afterward built within this enclosure. A portion of one old house, a small section of the wall, and a cactus here and there may still be seen.

In some of these buildings the fathers and mothers of some of our club members found shelter when, a half century later, they crossed the trackless plains seeking homes in a new land.

The enclosed land was laid out with much taste and judgment. To quote from Miss Vallejo, "apples, pears particularly, peaches, apricots, plums, cherries, figs, olives, oranges and pomegranites" were growing in these gardens, being planted before 1800; and grapes everywhere. So while Washington still lived, enjoying the peace but just proclaimed on our eastern shores, in 1797, the civilization and colonization of this valley began.

To secure their portion of the Pious Fund, careful reports had to be sent by the fathers each year to the president of the missions and to the governor of the territory. We need to but glance at these to see the success of the work. The first year there were five marriages and thirty-three baptisms; the second year twenty-nine marriages and one hundred and sixty-two baptisms, one hundred and fifty-four Indians were under instruction. There were also one hundred and fifty head of cattle, one hundred and eighty head of sheep and goats, twenty-one horses and six mules. The harvest that year—1800—was thirty-three fanegas of wheat, twelve of beans, one of barley, and two of corn. A fanega is about two bushels.

The Indians were "persuaded to come to the Mission where possible, but when necessary"—one smiles at the word necessary. the soldiers were sent out and gathered them in, even going as far as Suisun and San Joaquin. Hundreds were thus brought in in the first few years, but many came willingly, as the race was a peaceful one, fond of community life. They were taught the trades, farming and gardening. Tallow and soap, and pottery were made, and salt also, as early as 1830, on the site of the present salt works. Weaving, housework and sewing were taught the women,—all were given thorough religious training, and a crude schooling. They were given plain woven clothing, though their clothing had been of rushes and skins before the advent of the padres. The unmarried men and maidens lived in the rooms off the court, but had their own individual huts outside when married. They were given their portion of beef, which they cooked in the crudest manner. They gathered acorns, nuts and grasshoppers, ground them into a paste, mixed

with suet or "montego," which they baked in small cakes between hot stones.

When the fathers entered upon their work in this valley they found some seven villages or rancherias, with from two to four hundred people in each village, making a total of about two thousand Indians in the valley. Each rancheria had its own language or idiom, though many of the inhabitants were familiar with that of the others, owing to frequent intermarriages. They did not practice polygamy, although Bancroft asserts that they did in some parts of the state. They are described as "stoutly built and heavy limbed, with short, broad faces, wide mouths, thick lips, broad noses and extremely low foreheads." They were poor hunters of large game, but skillful in making nets for fish and small animals. They lived on clams, sturgeon and other fish from the salt water sloughs, while from the mountains they secured acorns and pine nuts, from which they made flour. They caught wild ducks and geese in nets, removed the bones and dried them. They also made a mush from the buckeye, and sometimes used the deadly nightshade. So closely did these people live to nature that they knew just when and how to use these poisonous plants without any ill effects.

The women made very beautiful baskets from grasses, and wove into them colored feathers from the wild ducks or gay-plumaged birds. Some few very fine specimens are to be found today in the possession of members of some of the old settlers' families. It was the custom when any one died to burn or destroy, or bury with them all of their valued possessions, so very few relics of any kind are to be found extant today.

The men were the only dancers, and they wore gay and fantastic headdresses of feathers and skins. One or two such pieces have been purchased by white people, and are greatly valued by their owners.

In winter these people wore a garment of skins, and in summer a fringe of tules hanging from the waist. Their dwellings in summer were merely a "lean to" of branches; in winter a hut, or a "wickiup," of branches and tules, plastered with mud. Each hut sheltered a whole family related by blood or marriage, the size of the hut being dependent upon the size of the family.

The Indians around San Francisco Bay had no canoes, but used bundles of tules lashed together, cigar-shaped. Some were long enough and strong enough to hold half a dozen persons astride. These they propelled with flat sticks.

It was the custom of these people to bury their dead in a sitting position close to their wickiups, and this practice resulted in making a mound about which their huts were built, and upon which they

built their fires for burning the possessions of the dead, and for other purposes.

In reading of the details of the building of the Mission, it is interesting to learn of the burning of the tiles, the making of the adobe bricks, and of the cutting and carrying by hand of the heavy timbers from the redwoods of San Antonio, thirty miles away. Each of these materials took months to prepare, so it is not astonishing that ten years elapsed before the Mission was completed. The windows were brought from Spain at great expense. The five bells also came from Spain, being Spanish gifts. Of these bells, three remain in the church today; one is supposed to be in Father King's church in East Oakland; the other cannot be traced.

In 1800 there were brought from Spain several religious paintings and two wooden figures, all of considerable merit. The figures are about life size. One is of the Christ; the other a Spanish saint. The paintings still hang in the church, but the figures have been given to the sisters in the Josephineum Orphanage, where they are highly prized. A few rare, worn vestments, a piece or so of old altar silver, and the four vellum books filled with rare records, of names famous in our land, and of deeds worth telling are about all that remain of the belongings of the old church. These books are now most carefully treasured in the archives of St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco.

The earthquakes of 1812 and of 1822 did some injury, which the earthquake of 1868 completed. The church was soon rebuilt, more modern in architecture, on the old site. A section of the rooms opening upon the court, which was rented for years for various purposes, and is now a storage room belonging to the priests; the old tiled steps at the entrance to the church; the tiled floor (now covered with wood) and the three bells are all that are left of an old, distinctly Spanish type of structure, a type so suitable to our country, so desirable for our climate, so capable of artistic development, that it is coming into use, in its modified form, all over our state.

The several Spanish families about the Missions, composed of cultivated and refined people, formed a sort of aristocracy, having large land grants, many retainers, and herds of cattle. Their houses were of adobe, and each house had its ovenilla, tiers of shelves made of tiling to cook upon, the smoke escaping from a horizontal slit in the back of the ovenilla, and thence out through another horizontal slit in the walls. In the kitchens hung highly-polished cooking utensils. In their rooms were well-made, though rude pieces of furniture, now becoming so popular because of their genuine artistic merit, an occasional good painting, a rare rug, or bit of tapestry. Their wives and daughters had laces.

jewels, fine china, and wore exquisite garments, for as early as 1822 the Russians began to come down to the Missions from Fort Ross to trade such goods for hides and tallow, wheat and pelts of deer, bears and foxes brought into the mission by the Indians or wandering hunters. This trading continued until Fort Ross was abandoned, in 1841, when it was taken up by the great traders from Europe and the far east, and as the Russians had done, so did they anchor off what was later known at Beard's Slough and also off Mowry's Landing. The padres owned boats at both landings, capable of carrying one thousand hides, and all bartering was done on board the ships, the Indians taking the goods back on their shoulders, as they had taken their goods there for exchange. Sometimes the padres drove to the landings in a "calesa" or "volante," a rude two-wheeled cart, which they used on all their excursions. They drove six white mules, mules being much prized, and white mules rare.

In 1813 the Spanish Cortez passed a law to close the missions and appoint parish priests within a given time. Mexico, however, passed from Spanish rule in 1821, before the law could be enforced, and the Pious Fund, passing into Mexico's possession, the Missions were continued. In 1824 Mexico became a republic, modeled after the United States government.

In 1830 there were nearly three thousand Indians in this valley. The padres built quite a large mill, and grew much wheat and corn. Horses were worth \$10, cows \$5, sheep \$2, wheat \$3 a fanega. In 1834, when the Mission was at the height of its prosperity, there were 2,300 Indians, 24,000 cattle, thousands and thousands of uncounted horses and mules, and 1,900 sheep, goats and hogs. Bands of elk and deer roamed the valley with the cattle. Various grains were planted, covering nearly a square mile. The grain was harvested by the old-world method,—piled within great corrals into which horses were driven and urged in a mad race, round and round, by the Indians upon the stacks, until the grain was all trampled out. It was cleaned by being tossed in the air upon a windy day, and the careful housewife washed the grain before she ground it.

A very pretty ceremony closed the harvest season. The Indians took four of the best sheaves of wheat, tied in the form of a cross, to the priests who, carrying the cross on high, led the way to the church, where the bells were rung and a Te Deum was chanted. The Indians possessed the true musical ear, and sometimes had good voices. They took part always in the church song services. After the harvest one-third of the Indians were granted a vacation to go to the hills to gather nuts, roots and herbs, and to hunt and fish. They continued the custom handed

down from father to son, and held their three or four annual dances to insure success in hunting and fishing, and no game but the kind danced for could be brought into camp. The dance in September was a very serious, ceremonial dance, lasting several days. Their dresses, worn for the dance, were very elaborate and well made, of feathers. Upon one day, the Coyote dance, a rude sort of play, was given, one of the favorite characters being Cooksuy—a clown. There must have been some meaning of a memorable character to this dance, because when asked why they danced, they always replied: "Because our fathers are dead." Their tradition of the coming of death into the world is as follows: A beautiful maiden lay in a trance, and no creature should make a sound for four days. The lark, however, forgot and began its song, "who-who." The maiden died, and death came to all thereafter. Today, if an Indian kills a lark he will strike its bill with his forefinger, and say, "If you had not spoken death would not have come to us." The dances were continued annually until about twelve years ago, but as the old leaders and full-blooded Indians are nearly all gone, these dances have ceased. The very last one was given near Pleasanton in 1897. This peaceful, pastoral life, this patriarchal care of a dependent race was soon to cease. In 1833 Mexico ordered the withdrawal of the missionaries. This took two or three years to accomplish, and in 1836 the Pious Fund was withdrawn, parish priests were appointed and administrators were put in charge of the Missions until such time as the properties could be rented or sold, according to their financial conditions. Don Jose Vallejo, who had a large grant to the north of this Mission, was put in charge here until it could be rented, as was ordered. He made his home at the Mission of San Jose from that time until 1876, and with his family held a most interesting position in the social life of this section. The very names of the Sunols, Amadors, Alvisos, Higuerras and Vallejos who held large grants of land in this valley, conjure up stories of fair women and brave men, of bull fights and bear fights, of gay dances, of rodeos and races, of daring riders and gay trappings and of happy homes. How, later, these same generous, open-hearted men welcomed the Americans, helped them to secure homes; how their lands, through disturbed governments and grants lacking early confirmation, passed into the hands of others, is a matter of history, written elsewhere.

With the withdrawal of the Pious Fund, the appointment of parish priests and of administrators in 1836, the Missions ceased to be. Abuses and disputes arose, and troubrous times came for the Missions and their wards. The history of these troubles would mean the history of California for the following ten years. In

all the years of political and religious disturbances Catholic services have never ceased to be held regularly at Mission San Jose—a church with a history of continuous worship for 107 years. However earnest and anxious the priests were, they had no means to keep the Indians together and care for them. So, set adrift and uncared for, they went back into the hills, or to unclaimed bits of land by the streams. The only remaining Indian villages today in this part of the state are in this township. They are, in the native tongue, El Molino, the mill, near Niles, and Alisal near Pleasanton, with perhaps half a hundred persons in each village. In the former, the last full-blooded Indian chief died some three years ago. In Alisal, the wife of the chief still lives, and six others of full blood. There are but seven full-blooded Indians in all this part of California. Alisal is on Mrs. Phœbe Hearst's property, and that lady has always a kindly hand ready to help them when necessary. This same year, 1836, cholera carried off hundreds of Indians, doubtless from exposure and lack of care. They retained much of the training of the priests; still they fell back to old manners and customs.

All of the information appearing in these papers concerning the old Indian history and customs has been gleaned from these seven full-blooded Indians, one being the widow of the last chief, whose name was Jose Antonio. There will never be another chief. They had a curious custom called "pooish,"—throwing of prized bits of shell or cloth, or scraps of baskets upon piles of stone which were on the tops of the hills, and about which they danced at night to charm away the devil, which sometimes they drove out in the form of a great white bull, or a white snake. However, they believed the padres had driven out this devil, as it had never appeared since their advent.

In 1843 the administrators and major domos were withdrawn, and the secular priests were given sole charge, but their reign was very insecure. Gov. Alvarado and Gen. Vallejo having quarreled, two other governors followed in rapid succession. Alvarado's faction declared for English possession; Vallejo's for independence. War between Mexico and the United States began, and upon the memorable 7th of July, 1846, Commodore Sloat raised the American flag at Monterey. Another peaceful conquest of a wonderful country. These events all occurred in rapid succession within two years. The administrators claimed possession of the Missions, as did the major domos appointed under them. The Mexican government also claimed them, and the priests held possession, until Kearny, in command on land under Sloat, ordered all Missions to remain in charge of the priests, who should be responsible to the United States government. Bishop Alemany imme-

dately applied to the United States government for a confirmation of the title of the Mission lands. The renting of Mission San Jose was given in charge of Fremont, who delegated his right to others. In due time the Mission San Jose lands were rented and paid for many times over, because of the claims of the various officials.

E. L. Beard, one of the earliest pioneers, so well known to all old timers, held the mission lands and lived there until the final patent was granted to Bishop Alemany, reading: "Mission of San Jose, 28 33-100 acres of church property, patented March 3rd, 1858." Mexico, having refused ever to pay to Upper California her share of the Pious Fund, since California became United States territory, suit has therefore been pending since 1868, which being placed before The Hague tribunal two years ago—the first case ever tried before that great peace court—resulted in the following decision rendered in October, 1902: That "Mexico shall pay to the Catholic Church of California the sum of \$1,420,682 at once, and \$43,050 in February of every year thereafter forever." On June 16th, 1903, Ambassador Clayton of Mexico cabled the State Department of the United States that the Mexican government had, on the previous day, June 15th, 1903, deposited to his credit \$1,420,682 on account of the Pious Fund. This early action of the Mexican government in meeting its obligations has broken all records in arbitration.

Will that sum, or any part of it, be used to ameliorate the condition of the few remaining Indians in the state, the people for whom the sum was originally contributed?

Such vague, uncertain boundaries were given when portioning off grants and selling lands in those wonderful, large-handed days that the wonder is that lines were ever straightened or patents secured. It was not until 1864-5 that the final patents were all secured in our valley. Some of our old settlers hold valued papers with the name of Lincoln, making good their titles and papers, that because of the name, are held among their rarest possessions.

With the raising of our flag, this chapter of California history closed entirely and forever, and there it a breath of gladness that the gentle founders of the mission did not see its close. Three days after the raising of the flag in San Francisco (Yerba Buena) the good ship Brooklyn sailed in through the Golden Gate bringing 236 colonists from our eastern shores, with knowledge of trades and stores of tools. Within the year many of those sturdy families, whose names and histories will some of them appear in the following papers, crossed the bay into this goodly land, and began the work which marks the fifty years of this township history as a golden era. Today we behold this fair and goodly land, with "orchard and meadow fruited deep," filled with a prosperous and christian people.

Mission San Jose

From the American Occupation



Old Mission of to day—Mission San Jose.

his rear, and dispatches which he received caused him to retrace his steps. A few weeks later the Bear Flag was raised at Sonoma; war had broken out between the United States and Mexico, and Commodore Sloat had hoisted the flag and taken possession of Monterey, the Capital of California.

One member of Fremont's band, Henry C. Smith, occupied a prominent position in the settlement of the little town of Mission San Jose by the Americans, and was appointed Alcalde by Governor Riley. When gold was discovered at Coloma, on the American River, in 1848, Smith went to the mines but remained only a short time. Returning to the Mission, he opened a store; the place soon became a very important trading post, as all travel to or from the "mines"—except by river—necessarily led through the Mission Pass. All travelers, therefore, were likely to "put up" at the Mission. It is reported that in a very short time Mr. Smith's accumulations in gold dust and coin were so great that their removal required a wagon.

The first money in circulation was of Mexican coinage, later gold ounces, or "slugs," were used. Slugs were large octagonal

IN 1846, as Col. John C. Fremont was on his way to Oregon, across the plains and mountains of California, he arrived at Monterey, and was given permission to continue his journey, via the San Joaquin Valley. This privilege was revoked almost as soon as given; but he kept on his route, however, through the Mission San Jose, Mission Pass and Stockton, and had gone as far north as Klamath when trouble broke out in

minted pieces of gold, valued at (\$50) fifty dollars. Smith is often called the "Father of the County," because it was partly through his efforts that the County was organized, in 1853, from territory taken from Santa Clara and Contra Costa Counties. His death took place at Livermore, in 1875.

On the return of the miners, journeying to take the steamer at San Francisco for their far distant homes in the East, many pitfalls awaited them—and these they did not escape at the Mission, as a number of gamblers were always there waiting for them. Joaquin Murietta, the famous "Joaquin"—Mexican gentleman, (?) gambler, horse and cattle thief—who figures in many a wild border story, had his rendezvous about a mile and a half back of the Mission, in the Pass, and levied tribute on many a traveler. This same neighborhood also boasted of "Five-Fingered Jack," Tom Gear and other well-known cut-throats, who were later dispersed or captured by the Vigilance Committee.

A small town soon sprang up about the Mission buildings—the first American settlement, in what is now Washington Township. The courtesy and hospitality of the Mission priests helped not a little in this settlement. Travelers were given food and shelter overnight, and names which are well-known in many walks of life all over our broad land to-day are inscribed in their old leather bound books, which are now carefully treasured among the archives of St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco.

The great bands of cattle and horses roamed at large as late as 1855, and among the bands deer and elk often fed in peace. The coyote, the wolf and fox, the California lion and grizzly were in the mountains and preyed upon the herds in the valley. They furnished food and sport for the early hunters and added to the stock of pelts sold each year from the Mission stores.

Bull fights and rodeos with the attendant festivities, races, dancing, feasting and the entertainment of guests from leagues away, furnished the sports and pleasures of the lovely, soft-eyed Senoritas and gallant Senors. The one street which the Mission could boast was boarded up, seats were erected on one side for the spectators, and within this enclosure the gayest sports took place. Men and women vied with each other in throwing money and jewels to the victors, and the goodly number of Americans, in the earlier years of the American occupancy, looked on with astonishment and wonder, enjoyed the pleasures, and were almost as lavish with their gold as the Spaniards themselves. The last bull fight took place in 1859.

With the advent of the American, in 1849, the passing of the lands into settlers' hands, the departure of the Indian into the hills and the shrinkage of the great herds, the old days departed;

sterner workers appeared, business according to modern ideas began to flourish, the broad acres were cultivated, and social life took on a new aspect.

The Indians, who had numbered thousands in 1846, had been so reduced in numbers by disease and lack of care that they were rarely seen after 1850, except on feast days, which they always celebrated with unlimited zeal. Of these days the most attractive to them were Good Friday and the day following, known as Judas' Day. For more than thirty years the ceremony of hanging Judas was planned and conducted by old "Chileno." The figure of Judas, hanging in some conspicuous place, consisted of a bundle of straw, in which were enclosed some explosives. It was clothed in a suit of clothes, a pair of boots and hat, and had a grotesque false face. As the people came out of church, a fuse was lighted which set fire to the figure and exploded its contents, amidst a great din. This curious old custom continued from the founding of the Mission in 1779 until 1902. But poor old Chileno is dead, and there is no one to take his place. Indeed, there are few of his people left to miss the old ceremony which meant so much to them. One by one they are going fast and are laid to rest on the little hilltop, set off for their especial use more than a century ago. The funeral ceremonies are conducted to-day much as they always were; the men dig the graves, while the women march around the grave a certain number of times, then cover their heads while they sit about wailing and weeping.

In 1849, E. L. Beard, of Lafayette, Indiana, secured from Pio Pico, then Governor of California, an interest in the Mission lands and settled in the old orchard of the Padres. There he found flourishing the fig, olive and pear trees; desiring to improve the varieties he had his friend, Dr. Whaley, bring from the East in 1850, scions of the Bartlett, Seckel, Pound and other varieties of pears, which were grafted into the trees of the old orchard. He also procured young cherry trees and the first cherry currants. From this stock many of the orchards, which were planted later in the valley, were supplied.

In the midst of the old orchard it is said that a lone apricot tree grew, which the Padres called the tree of forbidden fruit, and this appellation secured its safety at the hands of the Indians. Of all the fine trees which were in this orchard, there are but a dozen great gnarled old olive trees left to-day. These are beside the avenue leading to the Josephineum Orphanage. In 1903, these trees yielded one hundred and twenty gallons of olive oil, besides several hundred gallons of pickled olives. These Mission lands, about fifteen acres in all, were afterward returned to the Catholic

Church, about 1865, and the priests again took up their residence on the property.

In 1850, Mrs. E. L. Beard, with her sons, Henry G. Ellsworth and John L. Beard, joined her husband. The journey from San Francisco to the Mission lay around the southern end of the Bay, and besides being arduous, was, contrasted with the journey today, tedious and expensive; the cost of the trip was \$50. Mrs. Beard brought many rose cuttings and other plants, which grew so luxuriantly that everyone spoke of the place as a little paradise.

In this same year Earl Marshall went to the mines; his wife moved to the Mission and, having a few cows, conducted the first dairy, selling her butter at marvelous prices and milk at twenty-five cents a quart. She cleared, in the year her husband was absent, over \$2,500.

This year, 1850, two hotels were built in Mission San Jose—a name by which the little village was henceforth to be called—the North Hotel and the Red Hotel. The lumber for the Red Hotel came around Cape Horn, and was purchased by James Hawley who built and conducted the hotel for two years, or until he moved into the valley and into the home where he now resides. His successors as proprietors of the Red Hotel were James Threlfall and wife, who kept it for some twenty years, or until it was burned when the town was destroyed by fire the first time. The dining-room of this hotel afforded the only dancing hall of that period.

It is said that on gala occasions Mrs. Threlfall wore a tobacco brown brocaded silk dress, ornamented with five dollar gold pieces in lieu of buttons, extending from the neck to the hem. Would that some more facile pen could tell of the gay social events of those days, of the May-day festivities, of the Fourth of July celebrations, with grand ball following; of the New Year's balls from early evening till daylight; of the elegant suppers, with tables laden with all early day luxuries; of the close friendships formed in those happy days, and of the many happy marriages and homes established.

The men and maidens of that day who, gay, careless, lovely of mein, elegant in dress, danced the hours away to the twang of the "fiddle and the bow," under dim candle lights, now send from their dear old homes their children and grandchildren to enjoy the modern gala day events, the plays, the concerts and cotillions which are danced on waxed floors, under brilliant electric lights, to the strains of an orchestra! And every day new friendships are formed and new homes are made, as lasting and as dear as those of half a century ago.

Some few of the American families living at the Mission in

1849 and 1850 were the Jerry Fallons, the Leo Norrises, the Earl Marshalls, the H. C. Smiths and the E. L. Beards. The population, too, was constantly changing because of the gold attraction; the total number is estimated to have been about three hundred.

The first flag-pole ever set up in the township was raised in front of Musser & McClure's store, which was then located in the old adobe, adjoining the Mission Church.

In 1853, Mary Brier Moores, the second daughter of Rev. W. W. Brier, the first American child, was born. In the summer of that year a school was opened in an adobe building north of the church; the class consisted of seven or eight small boys and girls in their ABC's. The term was three month's long, and the teacher's salary was \$150 per month, collected by subscription. Of the first class, Emma Hawley, now Mrs. John Ingalls, and George Van Gordon are the only ones living. The first school supported by public funds was built at the junction of what is now the Niles road and the road leading through Stockton Pass. It was completed in 1858. The house still stands, its owner and occupant being one Pinheiro, a man after President Roosevelt's own heart, the happy father of twenty-four adult children. The present fine public school building is on land which was donated for the purpose by Beard and Ellsworth. Three teachers are employed and the average attendance of pupils is one hundred and thirty.

The first musical instrument in the town was a hand organ, which was placed in the old church and played by one of Don Jose Jesus Vallejo's daughters. In 1850, Don J. J. Vallejo, who with his family lived in a large adobe directly opposite the church, purchased a piano for the use of his daughters who were all fine musicians.

In 1852, a dauguerreotype of the Mission buildings by a good traveling artist was taken, at the earnest request of John L. Beard, then a little lad. This is the first and only good picture ever taken of this interesting landmark. A copy of this picture is the first illustration in this book.

About 1850, E. L. Beard, following in the footsteps of H. C. Smith, rented an adobe building from Father Federy and opened a store. He was succeeded in business by Howard & Chamberlain, who in turn were followed by Musser & McClure. In 1865, they sold out to Ehrman & Bachman. A part of this old adobe building still stands, an interesting relic of those bygone days.

There were two stage lines in these early days between the few small towns, one conducted by Moore Bros., who used American horses, the other by the Cameron Bros., who drove mustangs. It is said the latter never failed to reach their destination on time, though they sometimes failed to accommodate would-be passen-

gers, because once started they could not be stopped! The first express was run by one Hoag; he sold, soon, to Bamber & Co., who extended their lines to San Jose and San Antonio.

In 1853, Musser & McClure drove across the plains the first band of sheep ever brought into the county. They started from Pennsylvania and were five and a half months in making the journey. They also brought good American cattle and horses.

In 1857, Geo. W. Cook and Pel. Folger came to the town and took up a tract of land south of town, which they cultivated for some years.

Mr. Marshall, who was elected the first Justice of Peace of the township, in 1859, had jurisdiction over a large territory, including the only towns in the township—Union City, Alvarado, Centreville and Mission San Jose, in which latter place he resided.

In 1862, J. C. Palmer, who had recently moved into the locality, believing the soil and climate to be most suitable for grape growing and wine making, imported from France and Spain ten thousand grape cuttings. The success of the enterprise was immediate, and thousands of acres of fine vineyards now crown the beautiful low-lying hills to the west and south of the town, and a number of fine wineries are located in this acreage. The excellence of these wines has brought a splendid revenue to this section, which is yearly increasing.

In 1868 came the "big" earthquake, which threw down the old church. Its destruction was but the work of a few seconds. E. S. Ehrman, who was standing on the porch of the old adobe store, tells that a crash was heard, an immense cloud of dust arose, and the old church was in ruins! The five bells were not injured; three hang in the new church, one is in Father King's church in Oakland and the other cannot be traced. The foundation and the steps of the old structure were used in the new building, which, with a commodious parsonage, was immediately erected. Some few of the old Dons lie buried beneath white slabs under the old flooring, which was never disturbed, but is now covered with a modern wooden floor.

One of the finest of palm trees stands in the Palmdale grounds, the former home of E. L. Beard. It is surrounded by many more of its kind, and is over forty feet high and fourteen feet in girth. A beautiful curled leaf willow is also in these grounds, grown from a cutting taken from the grave of Napoleon. A broad and beautiful olive avenue, which is a noticeable feature in the landscape, leads from the town of Irvington, nearly two miles, through the Palmdale vineyards, prune and olive groves, to the Gallegos homestead in Mission San Jose. Frosts have never been known in this favored spot, oranges and

lemons thrive, and all fruits bear freely, though the locality is the home of the orange, grape and olive.

The Ancient Order of United Workmen was organized at the Mission September 24, 1878, with H. E. Mosher as Master Workman. This order owns its own building, in which several other lodges hold their meetings. There is also a large hall owned by the Order of the Holy Ghost, in which the Portuguese society of that name hold their meetings.

In 1884 a very destructive fire nearly destroyed the town, taking all of the old buildings not destroyed by the earthquake, except the old adobe store, which had been a part of the Mission buildings. When the fire threatened the new church buildings and the church itself the great barrels of claret stored in the cellars in the old adobe were taken, at the suggestion of Mr. Joseph Sunderer, and used because of the lack of water to quench the fire, and thereby the buildings were saved.

After this fire a competent volunteer fire department was organized and maintained, and was of the greatest service when a second disastrous fire devastated the town in 1895. In this fire all of the stores and houses on the west side of Main Street were destroyed. The town has since been well rebuilt and is a brisk, thriving, busy little place with about 800 inhabitants.

In 1890, a Catholic Seminary, for the education of young men desiring to enter the priesthood, was built in the Mission grounds. The bricks used in its construction were made on the grounds. This institution was conducted for two years, when the building was sold with a part of the grounds to the Dominican Sisters, whose mother convent is situated at Guerro and 24th Street, San Francisco. In this handsome and commodious building, surrounded by beautiful grounds, these Sisters have established the Josephineum Orphanage. Sixteen professed Sisters and over one hundred girls between the ages of four and fourteen years are inmates of this institution.

In October, 1901, the Standard Electric Light Company brought its line into Mission San Jose from the Blue Lakes, Alpine County. This is, to date, the longest line in the world, carrying the biggest voltage in the world—40,000 volts. The large distributing station is situated just north of the town and here there is a large transformer to reduce the power for house distribution.

The Suburban Electric Light Co. was incorporated June 14, 1901, with a capital of \$500,000. It distributes light and power throughout Alameda County, including as a matter of course all the towns and homes in Washington Township. This Company secures its power from the Standard Electric Company and from the Bay Counties Company.

In 1892, a Columbus celebration was held to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus. Impressive and elaborate ceremonies were conducted in the church by the Archbishop, assisted by the local and visiting priests. All of the Indians in the neighborhood were brought in to participate in the celebration. A procession with various appropriate floats, preceded by one with R. A. Abbey as Columbus, was a brilliant feature of the day. Great tables were spread under the old fig and olive trees, all of the Indians were given a feast, and the old-time hospitality was extended to the thousands of visitors who were present from far and near. It was the only celebration of the kind held in the State.

The founding of the Mission was celebrated on its centennial anniversary, June 11, 1897, and was also the only one of the kind ever held in the State. The church services were most imposing and dignified, as commemorating the anniversary of a church with a service of 100 consecutive years. The great parade of the various Catholic societies in the valley, the several beautiful floats, the splendid music, the numbers of school children, the most lavish floral display and a happy revival of old Spanish hospitality made a day never to be forgotten by those attending. Again the few remaining Indians from their homes near Niles, Sunol and Pleasanton were present and were given a feast in the old Mission gardens, under the old olive trees. A giant barbecue was held on the Gallegos place to help feed the 10,000 guests who came from all parts of the State to be present. The township also sent its full quota of guests and every vehicle possible to secure in the valley was utilized to carry the crowds from the station, for Mission San Jose is two miles from the railroad, and the roads were lined with people walking. To-day the little town is well on the way, marking off the years of another century.



The Indian's Lament

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Tanaya, the Chieftain, awoke from his slumber,
Woke from a sleep of a century's years,
Opened his eyes with a wild look of wonder,
Gazed on the landscape, and burst into tears.

"Where are the tall waving grasses and flowers,
Where are the beautiful sycamore trees?
How oft 'neath their branches we rested for hours,
Soothed by the silence and fanned by the breeze!

"Once a broad river ran down in its splendor,
Singing in beauty its song to the sea.
Now its scarred banks are the only reminder
Of all the bright hours we spent there in glee.

"How oft we were wont to go gaily riding
And chasing the antelope over the plain!
Has the great 'white snake,'* which I see swiftly gliding,
Destroyed the vast herds of the cattle and game?

"Full well I remember the good Father's coming
To gather my people and make them obey;
To teach them the beauty and value of learning,
To teach them to labor and teach them to pray.

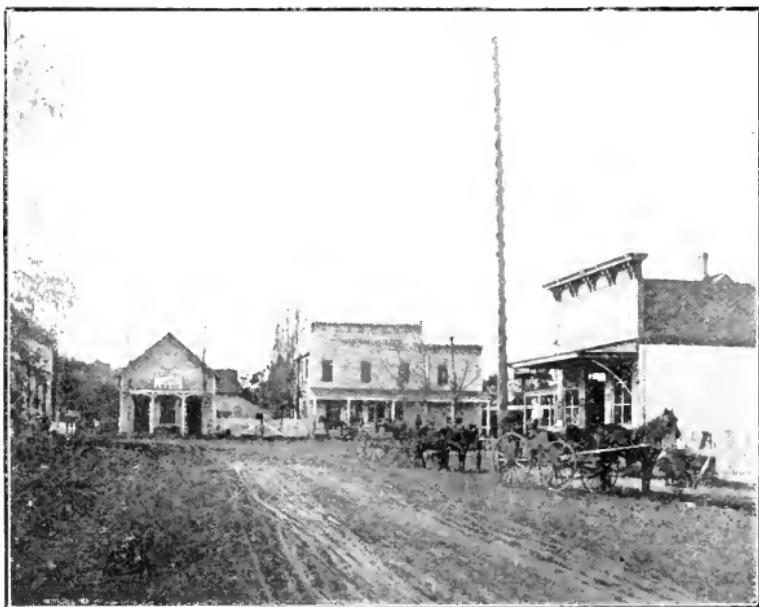
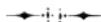
"I see not the camp fires which always were burning,
I hear not the sound of their laughter and song;
Deep in my heart I feel a fond yearning
To welcome my people, to whom I belong.

"Naught but the mountain, in splendor reposing,
Remains to remind me of all which I seek;
And now as I feel my eyes again closing,
The last rays of sunset illumine its peak.

"No one to care for whatever betide me,
None to remember, wherever I roam;
Take me again to thy bosom and hide me,
To wake in a happier hunting-ground home."

*The great 'white snake' refers to the old Indian superstition of the white snake in their Pooish worship, and also to the smoke of railroad trains, which now trail their length through the valley.

Union City and Alvarado



First Court House in Alameda County

In the days of long ago—days that are now classed as those “before the Gringo came”—Union City and Alvarado came into existence upon a portion of the Rancho Portrero de los Cerritos, in the northwestern portion of Washington Township in what is today Alameda County.

Union City, the first of the two to be settled, is located on the banks of Alameda Creek near a point then known as the Devil’s Elbow. It was in 1851 that Union City first sprang into existence, Mr. J. M. Horner being its founder and the builder of the first warehouse upon the bank of the creek. This stream pours its waters into an extensive slough which stretches far out toward the bay, where a very tortuous channel was formed.

It is said that in 1846 this creek was navigable for light craft as far up as Bell Ranch Bridge. In fact, until 1878 small vessels used this channel as far as the sugar refinery, but today the channel is filled, and the course of the water entirely changed.

The founder of Union City developed a plan for cutting a canal

across the marshes to connect with the bay, which should be a continuation of Crandall slough. By this means the water flow would have been admitted into the canal, and thus the flooded marshes would have been reclaimed, the creek relieved of surplus water, and Union City, together with Alvarado, would now have been in direct communication by water with San Francisco, as they were in the early days. In addition, hundreds of acres of marsh land could have been reclaimed. Unfortunately, Mr Horner's canal scheme never existed beyond his own ideas, and the result was that the Devil's Elbow, where the water has dammed and overflowed, eventually filled and is now a bed of sandy sediment.

Union City and Alvarado are nearly surrounded by marsh, and in the old days every year brought an overflow from the creek, which caused a few days' flood, wherein the going out of doors without rubber boots was anything but agreeable. The two little towns had the advantage of good lands, extensive warehouses, with steamer and schooner communication, which tended to rapidly develop the rich agricultural surroundings to the east.

It is known that Union City received its title from the first steamer which plied between that place and San Francisco. This vessel, "The Union," had a novel history, having been originally constructed in New Jersey and brought in sections, aboard ship, around Cape Horn, and imported to the coast by Charles Minturn. When this steamer first entered upon the service between Union City and San Francisco it was owned by Mr. J. M. Horner, and was placed on the route to carry produce to market. It had limited accommodations for chance passengers.

Mr. Horner had, in 1851, purchased an extensive tract of land, which included the original townsite of Union City. From his own and other agricultural interests, a large amount of freight was carried from Union City to the city of San Francisco. History states that the sales of produce from Mr. Horner's acreage alone, one year, brought forth a revenue of \$270,000.

Prior to the entry of the steamer "Union," freight transportation had been confined to sailing vessels, many of which plied between Union City and San Francisco at regular intervals. "The Union" was a historic craft upon San Francisco bay, her first owner, Charles Minturn, having been the originator of the ferry between Oakland and San Francisco. Her first master was Capt. Olney, who afterward commanded the "Senator." Following Capt. Olney came Capt. Marston, who later dwelt at Centreville, where some of his descendants grew to manhood and womanhood. Next, "The Union" was commanded by Capt. Trefry, who for years guided her destiny. He was afterward a resident of Centre-

ville, and for many years filled the office of constable. Union City was the location of the first flour mill of any size established within the limits of the state, this being also an enterprise of the Horners, (John and Wm. Y.) who, in 1853, built at the little port a mill having a run of eight burrs, costing at that time \$85,000. It was operated by steam power, and the flour gained a state reputation, through the award at the first Agricultural Fair in California of the first premium. The Union City flour competed with eight samples ground from California grain, and the united judgment of three New York merchants awarded the premium for excellency to the sample from "Horner's Mill at Union City." This premium was a silver cup.

In the early '60s this mill was the scene of a distressing accident. Mr. Jos. Lyndall, a half brother of Mr. McClure, who was a part owner in the mill at that time, was caught by a belt, and being dragged against the machinery, was terribly injured. From the effects of this accident Mr. Lyndall died two days later.

This mill was operated for many years, but was finally abandoned. The buildings were moved to where the foundry now stands, and are yet in use.

The first dwelling in Union City was originally occupied by Capt. Bulmer, and today still does duty as a home. It stood where the buildings of the water works now are until it was moved to its present location, opposite the foundry. This house is said to have been built of drygoods boxes, but later to have been improved by additions of lumber. It was first occupied as a home by Mr. Joseph Ralph and family, later by Capt. Marston and family, A. E. Crane, Mr. and Mrs. Ashley Cameron, and Mr. and Mrs. Churchill. It then passed into the possession of one John Miller, who sold it to G. Platt, who in turn transferred it to a man named Quigley. Afterwards it became the property of Capt. C. C. Scott, and at present is owned and occupied by Mr. Dennis Harrington. During these years its uses have been extremely varied. It has done duty as a store, saloon and gambling house; also as a men's furnishing store. It afterward was used again as a dwelling house, then a boarding house, later as a saloon, and later still, again used as a home.

Another old house is the one occupied by John Moffit, built by Capt. C. C. Scott in 1852. This historic landmark was owned and lived in by the Curraghs, one of the earliest families of Union City the members of which, with the exception of Dr. John Curragh of San Francisco, have years ago passed to their long home.

In 1851 William M. Liston came to Union City to take charge of the two warehouses that had been built there by Henry C. Smith. In addition to these warehouses, the two dwelling houses

mentioned were then in existence, and Mr. Liston constructed the third.

The first retail grocery store in Union City was kept by Capt. Bulmer. This establishment first occupied a tent, but was later moved into a wooden structure. Capt. Bulmer, Union City's pioneer merchant, now sleeps in "Lone Tree" cemetery at Hayward's.

The first hotel was established by A. M. Veasy, who afterward gained political prominence as county clerk of Alameda county.

Almost contemporary with Mr. Veasy's hotel, a second hotel was opened by one Andrew Forbes, the building being added to and improved by Joseph Ralph. Later Mr. Ralph turned his attention to farming near Alvarado.

The first white child born in Union City was the daughter of Edward D. and Mary Gadding Clawiter. The Clawiters had emigrated to California from Bremen, coming around Cape Horn on the ship "Reform," having been six months on the way. They arrived at Union City in 1852, and their daughter was born on August 7th of that year. Her birth was a great event in those days. People came from all directions to see the wee stranger, and many brought gifts. From Mr. J. M. Horner she received a town lot, and was by him christened "Union." The lot, which was the baby's christening gift, has long since been washed away by the floods, and today not a vestige of land remains to show where it was located.

Union Clawiter grew to be a handsome woman, cultured, refined, and possessing a lovable disposition. Her education was acquired at the public schools and at the "S. S. Harmon Pacific Female College" of Oakland. She was the first of a long list of young ladies who attended that school from this vicinity. At twenty years of age Miss Clawiter married Converse Howe, a member of the well-known Drexler family. She made her home in Southern California, and became the mother of four sons. Mrs. Howe passed away on January 19, 1890, and her husband followed a year later, both finding a last resting place at Pomona.

From 1852 arrivals increased, and Union City soon became a good-sized community. As has been already told, the Horner mill building was moved from its original location. Its size was largely increased under the ownership of George Tay & Co., who in 1870 established in it a foundry at Union City, investing therein a capital of \$75,000. This industry became at once a financial success, netting for many years 40 per cent on the investment. It was later operated by a stock company, and was called the "George H. Tay Co." Its business manager and superintendent was Charles R. Nauert, who was retained by the company through

thirty-six years of service. His son, A. Bertram Nauert, was employed as the company's shipping clerk for a number of years. The Tay foundry gave employment to thirty-five men, and disbursed about \$4,000 a month to the employees.

Another enterprise of Union City was a glue factory, established in 1873 by Frank Farnholtz, its location being near the present water works. The humidity of the atmosphere prevented the production of a first-class quality of glue, and after two years of experiment, this factory was closed, much to the relief of the residents.

Artesian water was first discovered on the old Henry S. Smith place, the original well having an eight-inch flow. Shortly after other wells were sunk by Quigley and Capt. Richard Benson, the last being extremely active. Its overflow was distributed into a natural depression, which Capt. Benson first covered with rock and gravel, thus forming a pretty little lake about 300 feet in diameter, and about 8 or 10 feet deep. The Benson place having passed into the possession of Capt. Richard Barron, its new owner built up an island in the center of the little pool, upon which were planted all kinds of vines, while the banks of the lake were fringed with a hedge of calla lilies. Small boats were kept on the lake, and it became one of the attractions of the country side, many people coming miles to view the beautiful hedge with its wonderful growth of white flowers.

The Barron place in 1896 became the property of Mr. W. H. Dingee of Oakland, together with a large amount of property adjoining. Upon this land Mr. Dingee sunk thirty-five wells, ranging from 72 to 500 feet in depth, and from 8 to 14 inches in diameter. The largest flow of water comes from a well close by what is called "Plummer's Creek." Using this artesian tract as a basis, Mr. Dingee organized the Oakland Water Company, carrying the flow into Oakland through a large water main. Later he transferred this holding to the Contra Costa Water Company.

A minor industry established at Union City, and after a few years' existence at that point, transferred to Oakland, was the soap factory of Lanz Brothers.

Union City had a rival, in Alvarado, which was located one-half a mile to the east, and was first called New Haven. It is claimed that Alvarado was the outgrowth of political spite on the part of Mr. Henry C. Smith.

Having once been honored by being the county seat of Alameda County, Alvarado may claim precedence over other small towns in Washington township.

In 1853, Contra Costa and Santa Clara Counties were represented in the assembly, the first by H. W. Carpentier and the

latter by W. S. Letcher and Henry C. Smith, who dwelt at "New Haven."

On March 10, 1853, the legislature then being convened at Benicia, Solano County, at that time the state capital, Mr. Smith presented a petition from the residents of Santa Clara and Contra Costa Counties asking that a new county, to be called Alameda, be created from territory then comprised within the limits of the two original counties. Acting on this petition, a bill entitled "An act to create the County of Alameda and establish the seat of justice therein, to define its boundaries and provide for its organization" was passed by the legislature. Under these conditions, Henry C. Smith may well be called the "Father of the County," as it was by his persistent efforts that Alameda County became a reality.

Upon the presentation of the bill, a sharp contest arose between Mr. Smith and Mr. Carpentier as to the location of the county seat, each desiring it to be in his own locality.

On March 28, 1853, the bill creating Alameda County received the governor's signature, and on the 6th of April, 1853, Alameda County became a division of the state, with New Haven as its seat of justice, this name having been originally given to Alvarado by Mr. J. M. Horner. This town was afterward called "Alvarado," in honor of Don Juan B. Alvarado, governor of California in 1836.

In the month of May, following the establishment of Alameda County, the first election of officers took place. This election still stands in the memory of old residents as the "Steeple Chase," there being five or six candidates for each office. Whigs and Democrats were the parties in those days.

In the election so little regard was paid to the proper names of persons that until after the ballots were cast, many candidates were known only by their nicknames. One elected official who upon the ballots, was represented by the name of Tom Snook, proved upon election to be A. H. Broder, Esq., Sheriff of Alameda.

Alameda's first Court of Sessions convened at Alvarado on Monday, June 6, 1853, in a room above the store of A. M. Church & Co.

After organization the court adjourned until the following morning at 8 o'clock, and during the consideration of extensive business many claims against the county were presented and allowed. It is interesting reading to the people of the present day to know what the commonwealth had to pay for goods and services, also who were the first creditors of Alameda County.

To D. L. Lord, for blank book and stationery, etc., \$425.

A. M. Church, services for obtaining books, etc., for desk, \$49.

Liberty Perham, for work on county desk, \$33.

W. C. Weaver, for work on county desk, \$48.
J. L. Long, two days' services as ass. jus. C. S., \$12.
A. Marier, one day's service as ass. jus. C. S., \$6.
A. W. Harris, one day's service as ass. jus. C. S., \$6.
J. M. Horner, for lumber for county desk, \$16.50.
C. J. Stevens, for lumber for county desk, \$9.
The salary fund the first year was \$4,500.

This first holding of court was a great day at Alvarado, and there were many visions of a city to spring up along the banks of Alameda Creek which would rival in size and business the San Francisco of today.

On September 14, 1854, the court of sessions again met, and Henry C. Smith was allowed \$200 for rent of the court room located over his store, he having purchased the building from A. M. Church.



First Beet Sugar Mill in the United States

This being the first charge of this character against the county, it produced a great deal of dissatisfaction on account of the inadequacy of accommodations. In the first place, the county possessed no lock-up, and the sheriff when holding a prisoner either had to personally watch him or lock him in a room at the Brooklyn House, the public hotel of the town. This dissatisfaction developed a strong feeling that the county seat had not been well chosen. An agitation for its removal arose which bore fruit in the selection later of San Leandro for this official dignity. San Leandro then

consisted of only a few scattering houses, located on the Estudillo homestead. A vote upon the question, ordered from no one knew where, and by no designated authority, transferred the county seat on the 30th day of December, 1854, to San Leandro by a majority of 234 votes. By force of this election, justice was next administered in the little town located on the Estudillo ranch.

San Leandro's triumph as a county seat was shortlived, for after the first meeting of the Board of Supervisors the county business was seriously interrupted by the discovery that the transfer of the county seat was illegal. This brought about a second removal, which necessitated the vacating of a new \$1,200 court house at San Leandro, and the transferring back across the salt marshes to Alvarado of all the paraphernalia of office, where it remained until moved back again, by an act of legislature.

Upon this return of the county seat to the banks of Alameda Creek, the Board of Supervisors held its first session in its old home on the 16th day of August, 1855.

The fight for the transfer of the county seat was by no means ended, for on February 8, 1856, the state legislature confirmed the legality of the election for removal to San Leandro. By this means, justice was, for the third time, set in motion, and the Board again convened at San Leandro.

A curious incident occurred in the loss of public monies, belonging to both state and county, which was stolen from an insecure place of deposit in that town during the incumbency of J. S. Maston as county treasurer. The sum stolen was \$7,156.44, a remarkably large amount for those days.

In 1853 the first private school was established, with five pupils, the tuition being \$5 per month. Not long after the public school was inaugurated, with Mrs. Warren as teacher. As in many other young communities, the teacher of this school "boarded around" among the different families of the community.

The first bridge across Alameda creek was built and wholly paid for by the Horner brothers. It stood on the exact location of the present bridge near the sugar refinery, and cost those enterprising citizens \$1,100. They also constructed the second bridge at Alvarado on the Mt. Eden road, but the cost of this one was later paid by the county.

The votes cast at an election in Alvarado on the 30th day of December, 1854, numbered 1,3268. It was said by some of the pioneers that 500 votes were imported from San Francisco.

At that time it was considered much more aristocratic to be a dweller of Alvarado than of Union City. The social conditions of the little communities were very pleasant in those years, balls and parties being quite common. But up to 1860 the moral and

religious welfare of the people had failed to receive much attention. As exceptions, there were occasional services held in the Brooklyn House at Union City by Mr. Horner, who was a Mormon elder, and now and then a sermon by Rev. W. W. Brier, a Presbyterian clergyman. No regular religious exercises, however, occupied the people on Sundays, and it was not until a Sunday morning in 1860 that the first Sabbath school was started. This was established by the efforts of two good women, Mrs. Charlotte Cornell, now a resident of San Francisco (who on May day of 1903 celebrated her 85th birthday), and Mrs. Julia Thompson. One of these ladies was a Presbyterian, the other a Methodist. The Sabbath school was held in the public school building.

To the untiring energy and care of Mrs. Cornell was largely due the building and furnishing of the Presbyterian Church, while to the fostering love of Mrs. Thompson was intrusted the interests of the Methodists. Both buildings were completed in 1860, the Methodist a few months the earlier. These religious edifices were for a long time called, "Charlotte's Temple" and "Julia's Chapel."

Dr. Hamilton, of Oakland, preached the first sermon in the new Presbyterian Church, on Sunday, May, 1861.

The Methodist Church, by removal and death of its members, lost nearly all its congregation, and twenty years since the church building was sold.

The history of the Presbyterian Church is one of prosperity, which includes the construction of a handsome place of worship on the old location in 1902.

A Catholic church building was erected in 1863, and is still occupied as a place of worship. The building was dedicated by Archbishop Alemany, and Father Fredi was the first priest in charge. The first church people were mostly Spaniards. A real hero, patriot and friend to church and community was Capt. C. S. Eigenbrodt, who lived on a farm near Alvarado. He was of German descent, though a native of New York and a graduate of West Point. Capt. Eigenbrodt was killed in action during the Civil War, in Shenandoah Valley, September 2, 1864.

To the town he left a sum of money to be used for the founding of a library. This was the nucleus of the present Odd Fellows' library. Capt. Eigenbrodt served one term as supervisor, and was a member of Crusade Lodge, I. O. O. F., of Alvarado.

The Alvarado Home Guard was formed in 1862, and was commanded by Capt. Ephriam Dyer, but was never called into action; the other officers were: 1st Lieutenant, C. P. Johnson; 2d Lieutenant, Joseph McKeown; 3d Lieutenant, H. C. Smith; Orderly Sergeant, Frank Gilman.

The citizens decided that July 4, 1863, should be celebrated

with spirit and as loud a noise as possible. They collected \$150 and bought a cannon, which was fired early and often on that day and consumed a large amount of gun powder.

The Alvarado Guards had a grand dedicatory ball in their new Armory on the 23d of September, 1864, in honor of Col. Jackson and Lieut.-Col. Rowley, which was the greatest social event of the year.

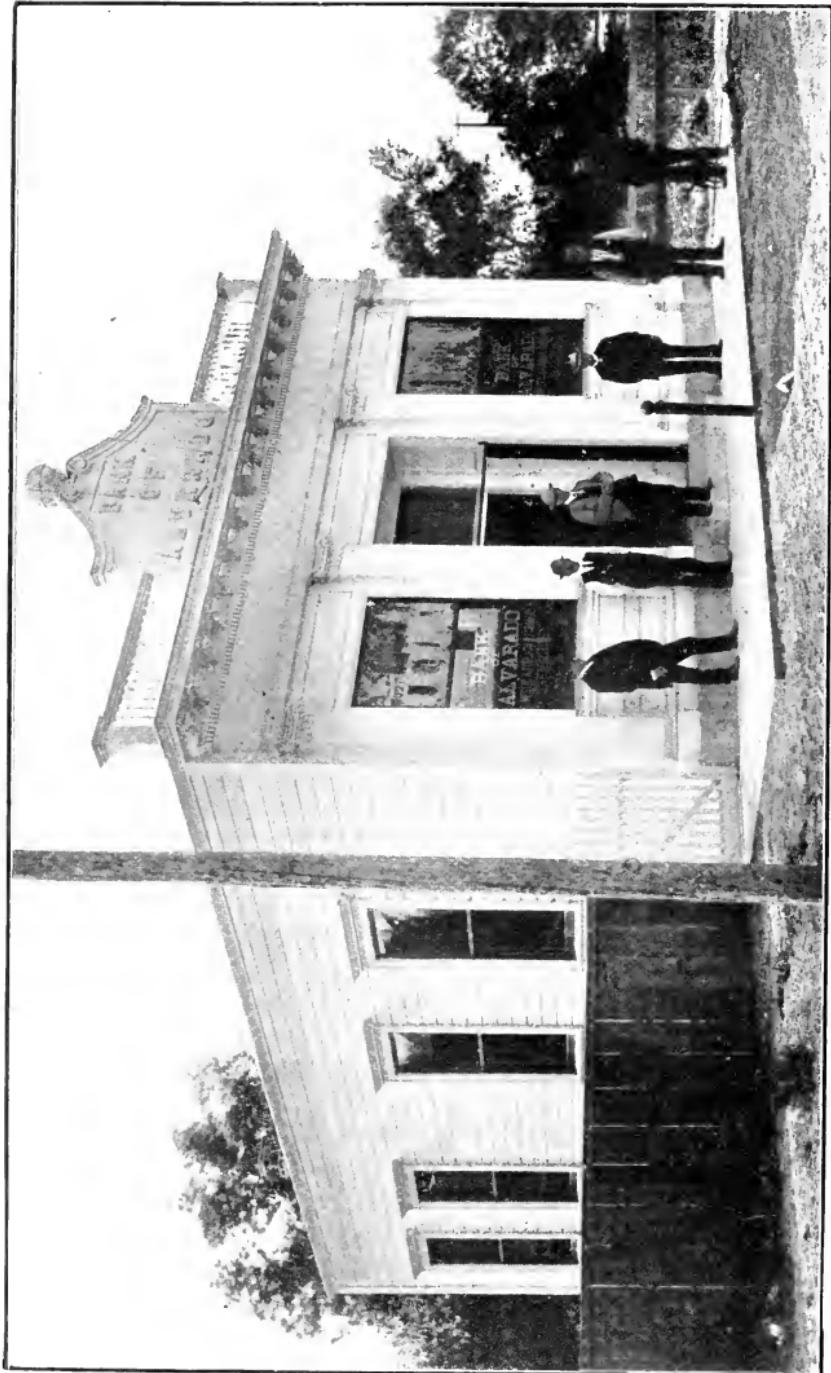
The earthquake of '68 did much damage, knocking down the large brick building and all of the chimneys, wrecking Stokes' store and crushing the bridge together so that it was impassable. A chasm was rent eight feet across near Mr. Dyer's place. Fortunately no lives were lost. In a brick stable, where A. J. Lattin kept a valuable horse, the timbers so fell that they formed a protection for the animal from the falling debris, and it escaped without injury.

Alvarado's first railway was the South Pacific Coast Narrow Gauge, constructed in 1878, giving quick communication between that point and the metropolis.

In 1890, Alvarado was visited by a series of mysterious conflagrations. Buildings were destroyed one after another, no one knowing from what source the fires started. Later events practically proved that all of this disturbance was of incendiary origin, there being unmistakeable evidence to this effect. One death occurred from these fires, the victim meeting his fate in one of the burning buildings. Untiring investigation failed to discover the fire fiend, and this bit of history remains today as great a mystery as ever. The old buildings so destroyed have been replaced by fine brick structures.

Prior to 1862 the only salt manufactured east of Mt. Eden came from the salt works of Christian Borthson, located on the banks of Alameda Creek, adjoining the salt works of John Quigley below Union City. J. A. Plummer and sons—J. A. Plummer, Jr., and C. A. Plummer—purchased in 1869 from Lyman Beard a large tract east of Alvarado, upon which was established their "Turk's Island" Salt Works. Prior to the death of Mr. Plummer, Sr., in 1883, his interests in the salt properties were transferred to his sons, and were merged into the firm of Plummer Bros.

The Alvarado Sugar Factory is the pioneer plant in the United States for the manufacture of beet sugar. It has been in almost continuous operation under various companies for the last thirty-three years. The originator of the business was E. H. Dyer of Alvarado, now retired on account of declining years. At the time of the establishment of the industry it was not looked upon as a feasible proposition, and it was hard to obtain the necessary capital to enter into and develop this new industry.



FIRST BANK IN WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

The California Beet Sugar Manufacturing Company was organized in 1867, with a capital of \$250,000. Work first began in 1870. In 1872 the capacity of the mill was only 7,000 tons of beets per annum. The factory was run for four years, and then failed. The machinery was sold and removed to Soquel, in Santa Cruz County, where a mill was run for a few years and then abandoned.

In 1879 the Standard Sugar Manufacturing Company was organized with a capital of \$100,000. It was soon ascertained that more capital was needed, so it was reorganized under the name of the Standard Sugar Refinery, with a capital of \$200,000. It was operated until 1886, when the boilers blew up. It was reorganized a third time in 1887, under the name of the Pacific Coast Sugar Company, and operated until 1888, when it ended in financial failure. The property was purchased in 1889 by the Alameda Sugar Company, an entirely independent organization, and has since been successful.

In 1897 the factory, under the management of E. C. Burr was enlarged to double its former capacity, and is now crushing 750 tons of beets per day, during each season.

The Hellwig Meat Co. was organized in 1868 under the name of P. Hellwig & Co. Some changes occurred at different times until January 1, 1903, when the Hellwig brothers and three others incorporated the Hellwig Meat Company, capitalized with \$50,000. This company employs eleven men, and has the only cold storage plant in the township. The firm also has a market in Haywards. Besides this the Lowrie Bros. have a market, sending their wagons into all parts of the township.

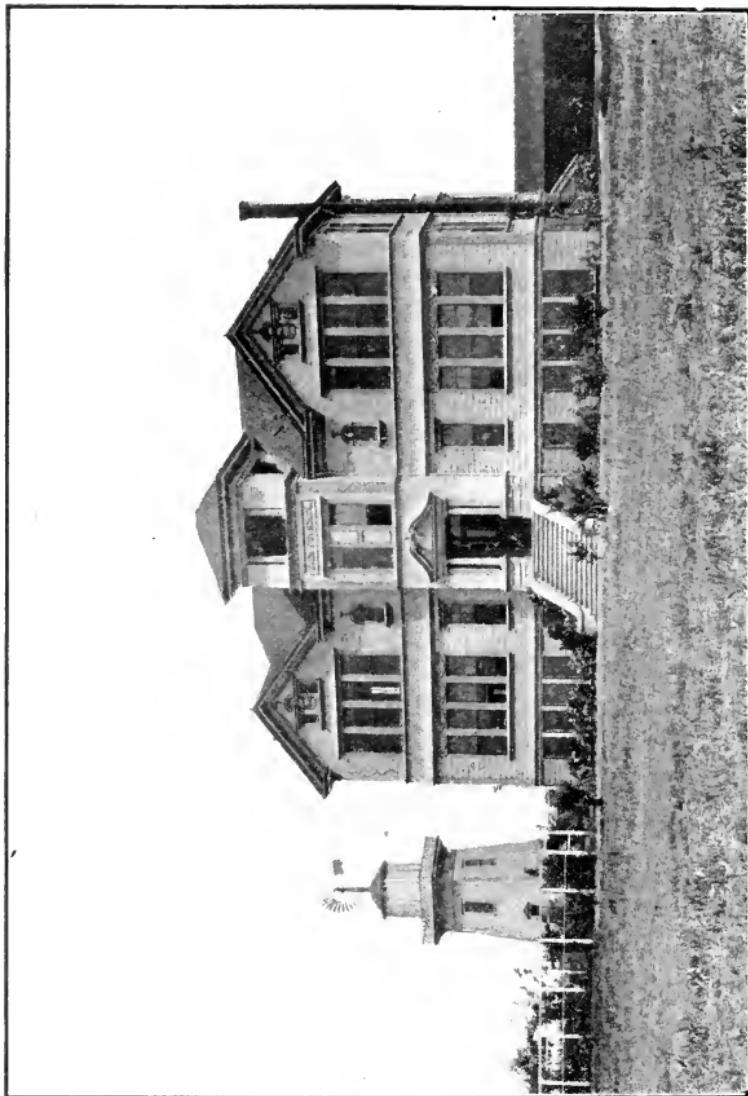
Alvarado's fraternal orders are as follows: Reliance Lodge No. 93, A. O. U. W.; Wisteria Parlor N. S. G. W.; Olivina Parlor N. D. G. W.; Woodmen, Alvarado Camp; Women of Woodcraft, Alvarado Circle; two Portuguese lodges, and most important of all, Crusade Lodge No. 93, I. O. O. F., the first Odd Fellows' lodge established in the county, and organized November 26, 1859. The first officers elected were: C. S. Eigenbrodt, N. G.; A. E. Crane, V. G.; James Hawley, Rec. Sec.; William Hayes, Treas.; William Liston, Cor. Sec. Of the charter members there is but one now living, James Hawley.

In 1864 the Lodge erected a fine two-story building. The lodge room, banquet hall and library occupy the upper story, and the ground floor is used as a public hall. There is also a large order of the Daughters of Rebecca.

The Alvarado Bank was established in 1902, with a capital of \$25,000, under the presidency of I. V. Ralph. The other officers are: Vice-pres., F. B. Granger; treas., F. P. Hellwig; cashier, August May.

The estimated population of Alvarado is 600. There are now but few representatives left of the old families who dwelt in the little village prior to 1860. Some have moved elsewhere, and their descendants have scattered into other sections of the state and of the Pacific Coast.

LUNION HIGH SCHOOL



Centreville and Vicinity



THE highway of the early settlers from San Antonio (East Oakland) to San Jose followed the most direct route practicable through the Alameda Valley. From a ford of Alameda Creek, just back of the Kelsev place, trails led across the country to the embarcaderos along the Bay.

Where these trails crossed the highway a small settlement was made, and soon became a thriving village, which on account of the location was called Centreville.

At the time, an attempt was made to give the place a Spanish name, and several times since like propositions have been made, but without success.

Geographically the town is about the middle of the township, and is on the northern part of the old Mission San Jose grant. It is near a river bed, which, geologists tell us, was once the main channel of the Alameda Creek, and appears on the old maps as the Sanjon de los Alisos, or Big Ditch of the Sycamores.

Traces of this creek bed can still be plainly followed. Deflecting from the present channel, on the farm of Howard Overacker, it runs through the Capt. Bond place, crossing the county road where the Newark road comes in, thence through the Episcopal church grounds, across the Allen, Hilton, Simpson, Bunting, Patterson and Rose places, thence southwesterly through the old Munyan farm—now the property of S. F. Brown—and the farms of Frank Sayles, Andrew Ross and C. S. Haley, finally reaching the Bay at what is now known as Jarvis' Landing. Sycamore trees still mark its course on the Bond, Bunting, Patterson and Sayles places, though many of them have long since been cut down.

From the town there is a most beautiful view of Mission Peak, sharply outlined against the eastern sky, rising over twenty-seven hundred feet above the sea. Its charms vary with every change of season, time, and atmosphere; always beautiful, whether cold and clear at morning or bathed in the warm purple hues of evening.

Back of Mission Peak, a little to the south, can be seen Mt. Hamilton and the Lick Observatory, and far in the northwest, beyond the Bay of San Francisco, the outlines of fair Mt. Tamalpais are plainly discerned.

The range of hills that intercepts the eastern view is a "joy for-

ever," clothed in varying hues, from the dull grays, browns and russets of autumn to the soft greens and wild flower tints of winter and spring. In the west glimpses of San Francisco Bay may be seen through the gaps of the low Coyote Hills, and beyond them the high wooded mountains of the Coast Range.

In the outlying districts are prosperous farms and orchards, homes of the successors of the once wealthy Spanish owners of this fertile valley.

The first men to locate within the limits of the present town, early in 1850, were George Lloyd, an Englishman, and Frank Pepe, an Italian. Mr. Lloyd brought his family with him, and for a time lived in a blue tent. Here he served refreshments to the weary traveler who passed his way. At one time he had a gate across the road, presumably to delay the passer-by and call his attention to the wayside retreat. He afterward built a good frame house, which is still in use as a part of the residence of Mr. Benjamin Mickle.

Mr. Lloyd sold his place to Mrs. Randall, who lived there several years with her two sons and daughter, Mrs. Hall. With her, also, lived her mother, Mrs. Todd, and the Misses Reeder, who are now Mrs. Howard Jarvis, Mrs. Frederick Moses and Mrs. Frank Jarvis. Mrs. Randall sold to John Lowrie, and from him it went to his children—the daughter, Mrs. Benjamin Mickle, inheriting the home place.

Frank Pepe worked for George Loyd for a time, but afterward bought a ranch near Jarvis' Landing, which he subsequently sold to C. S. Haley.

In 1852, or perhaps early in 1853, Capt. George Bond and Mr. Stacey Horner built homes in Centreville. The Horner house still stands where built, on the corner at the intersection of the Newark and Oakland roads; when constructed this house was one of the finest in the country; on the death of the owner the property was sold to Mr. Tolin, and for years after his death his widow continued to occupy the place, and with her lived her sister, "Aunt Lo Smith," known far and wide as a capable nurse and a friend to those in need. All have now passed away and the place is owned by strangers.

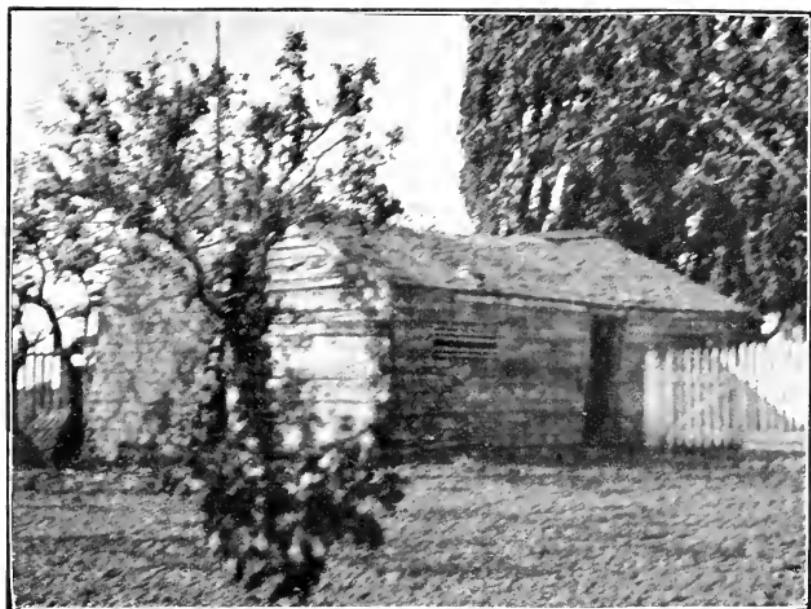
Captain Bond's house was on the opposite side of the street, where it still stands in good repair. Captain Bond lived there many years and his son and daughters were prominent in the business and social life of the town.

Another of the early date houses, now almost in ruins, stands under a tree at the back of the lot, opposite the Catholic church. Mr. Torry, who built the house, hauled the logs from the hills above San Antonio and sawed out the lumber on the premises.

C. C. Breyfogle, one of the first county assessors, built the house that is now the Chadbourne home, and about the same time William H. Coombs, the first lawyer in the neighborhood, built the house (or a part of it) now occupied by Mrs. James Emerson.

In 1853, the ranch house of Mr. E. L. Beard was built on the farm now owned by Eugene Stevenson. This building still remains, the rawhide thongs by which hammocks were suspended, hang over the hewed rafters, the old bunks are yet in place and even the pole on the top stands as in the days when the flag was raised upon it to call the men to their meals.

On the farm opposite the Stevenson place is a little old house



The Old Beard Ranch House

built by the Scrivener brothers in 1853. The property now belongs to Mr. Rollins.

In 1850, Mr. John M. Horner built a school house on the lot now occupied by the United States Hotel. The first teacher was Mr. Harvey Green, and after him a Mr. Kempster taught, and a Miss Longfellow from New England. Here the children gathered, some of them walking two and three miles from the scattered homes in the valley. From one of the pupils we have this account of those early school days: "We—my sister, two cousins, and I—started early in the morning, and cheerfully walked the three long miles of lonely road, with the tall mustard growing high above

our heads on either side. The school house was a small, plain, unpainted building, with homemade desks and benches for the older pupils. Not yet arrived at the dignity of a desk, I sat on one of the benches ranged around the sides of the room, and with others of like size and age dangled my feet from nine to four o'clock. At recess the older boys carried benches out to what is now the Presbyterian church yard, and turning them upside down, coasted down the grass-covered banks of the old dry creek channel. Our teacher was Mr. Kempster."

The first public school house was built back of the Crosby place, as the old residents say, "near the lagoon." This lagoon was merely a depression, connected with the present lagoon near Irvington by a swale, which in winter allowed the water to run from the larger to the smaller lagoon. Later the school house was moved to the corner of the Overacker place, where it was used until the present school house was built; the old one was then moved into town, where it is in use as a cyclery.

The following is a partial list of the early instructors: Mrs. Jonathan Mayhew, Judge Stephen Nye, Frederick Dann, Frederick Campbell, Kirke Brier and many others. Mrs. Mayhew began her term of school as Miss Everett, but driving one day with Mr. Mayhew, to whom she was engaged, they met the Rev. Mr. Brier, also driving, and the marriage ceremony was performed then and there, none of the parties alighting from their vehicles. Both Mr. and Mrs. Mayhew were valued members of the community.

Judge Stephen Nye, now so well known, says he got his first night's sleep in California in a house which stood where the residence of T. C. Huxley now is, and that the first money he earned in the State was as pedagogue of the district school in Centreville. He was married here, and while a resident, in 1861, was elected District Attorney of Alameda County.

Another teacher who taught some years later was Miss Julia Rappleye; her life would make an interesting story. A woman of the strongest principles, she afterward became a missionary to Turkey, where she remained for many years. On her return to California she married an early sweetheart and died three months later.

As the country became more thickly settled, other schools were established. In 1856 the Alviso district school was opened, with Erastus Johnson as teacher. Others that followed him in those early days were: Charles Johnson, Miss Everett (afterward Mrs. Johnathan Mayhew), Miss Blackwood, Mr. Pratt, Miss Nay-lor (sister of Mrs. W. W. Brier), Miss Laura T. Fowler (who later became identified with the San Francisco schools), and many others

who long since have taken places in the more prominent walks of life. Still later, the Lincoln district was taken from the Centreville and Alviso districts, and a school house built on the Alvarado-Newark road, about two miles west of Centreville. Of those who taught there we may mention Miss Mollie Reeder, Miss Emma Reeder, Miss Louise Cearley, Miss Flora Brown, Miss Cora Simpson and Miss Addie Ross, all young ladies of our own neighborhood; Miss Mott (Mrs. Comfort Healy) and Miss Thompson (Mrs. I. B. Haines) also taught here.

Mr. Emory Munyan, a pioneer resident, served as a trustee of this district from its organization until his death, a period of twenty-nine years.

Religious services were early held in the Horner school house. Mr. Horner, who was a "Latter Day Saint," preached in the afternoon, and kindly gave the use of the building in the morning to the Methodists and Presbyterians who used it on alternate Sundays.

The first child baptized there was Mary Brier, in 1852, a daughter of Rev. W. W. Brier. The building was afterward moved to Irvington, where it still stands.

In 1853, Rev. W. W. Brier organized the Presbyterian church in the Horner school house, which has the distinction of being the first church of that denomination in the county; a large lot was donated by George Lloyd, and a church building of brick was erected in 1855, and dedicated January 1, 1856. This was destroyed by the earthquake of 1868 and rebuilt in wood soon after. The first trustees were: Jesse Beard, pres.; Chauncey Cornell, secretary; Charles Kelsey, Henry Clark, and Jonathan A. Mayhew. Charles Hilton was the elder. None of them are now living.

The long series of church festivals that have since been held in the township were inaugurated November, 1855, in the then unfinished church. Everyone from Mission San Jose to Union City assisted, and over \$500 was added to the church funds.

In 1877, a manse was erected in the church grounds, and quite recently a Sunday School room has been added, nearly doubling the seating capacity of the church.

A Methodist church was also organized about the same time as the Presbyterian, and in 1856 a church building erected. A distinctive feature of the services was Robert Beaching and his bass viol, which added much to the interest of the meetings. The instrument is in the possession of Mr. Beaching's son, now a resident of the village.

The Episcopal church was erected in 1867, and consecrated September 28th of the same year by Bishop Kip, the Rev. D. J. Lee being the minister in charge. Soon after came the Rev. E.

Warren, who boarded around among the faithful and was the first resident clergyman.

The first baptism in the church was James Allen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Marston. A rectory was added to the church property in 1884. The rectory and church lots are large, well situated and valuable.

The Roman Catholic Church was not built until 1886, but is the largest in the township, with seating capacity for a thousand people. Father Governo, formerly of Mission San Jose, was priest in charge and directed the construction of the building. He is still the Father of the parish, and has the regard of Protestant and Catholic alike. His residence adjoins the church and his garden is always beautiful with flowers.

The first cemetery was laid out by J. M. Horner, and might be called the lost graveyard. It was located in a field back of the Samuel Marston place, now the Bunting home, on the southeast bank of the Sanjon de los Alisos. When the ownership of the grounds passed out of Mr. Horner's hands, it was no longer used as a burial place. A few of the dead were removed to the present cemetery, but many were left undisturbed in their first resting-place.

The graves were marked by wooden head-boards, the only kind procurable at that time; wild mustard grew like the veritable tree of the Bible and covered everything with its rank growth, and one autumn a fire swept over the place, destroying nearly every grave mark. Many have visited the spot in a vain search for their dead. The stream has changed, the trees are gone, but the dead sleep quietly on. The present cemetery was laid out in September, 1858, on land given by G. A. Loyd, although burials had been made in it before then. The first trustees were: Chas. Kelsey, Erastus Johnson, Chas. Hilton, Dr. J. M. Selfridge and James Hawley. Many old settlers are buried within these quiet borders whose names are familiar to those now living—some of them have borne prominent parts in the history of this part of the State. The names inscribed on the old tombstones bring up many a picture and memory of bygone days.

One of the first post offices established in the township was at Centreville and Capt. Bond was, perhaps, the first postmaster.

The first store in Centreville was a very primitive affair, opened by Capt. Bond, in 1852. He was succeeded in 1854 by Mr. Clemens, who erected a two story building about where Mr. Charles Plummer's house now stands. He used the upper floor for a dwelling and kept a general merchandise store below. He sold the house to Mr. C. J. Stevens, who used it as a residence. An apricot tree, trained like a vine against the south end of this house, gave it quite

a novel appearance. The building was afterward moved opposite the Gregory House and used as a boarding house.

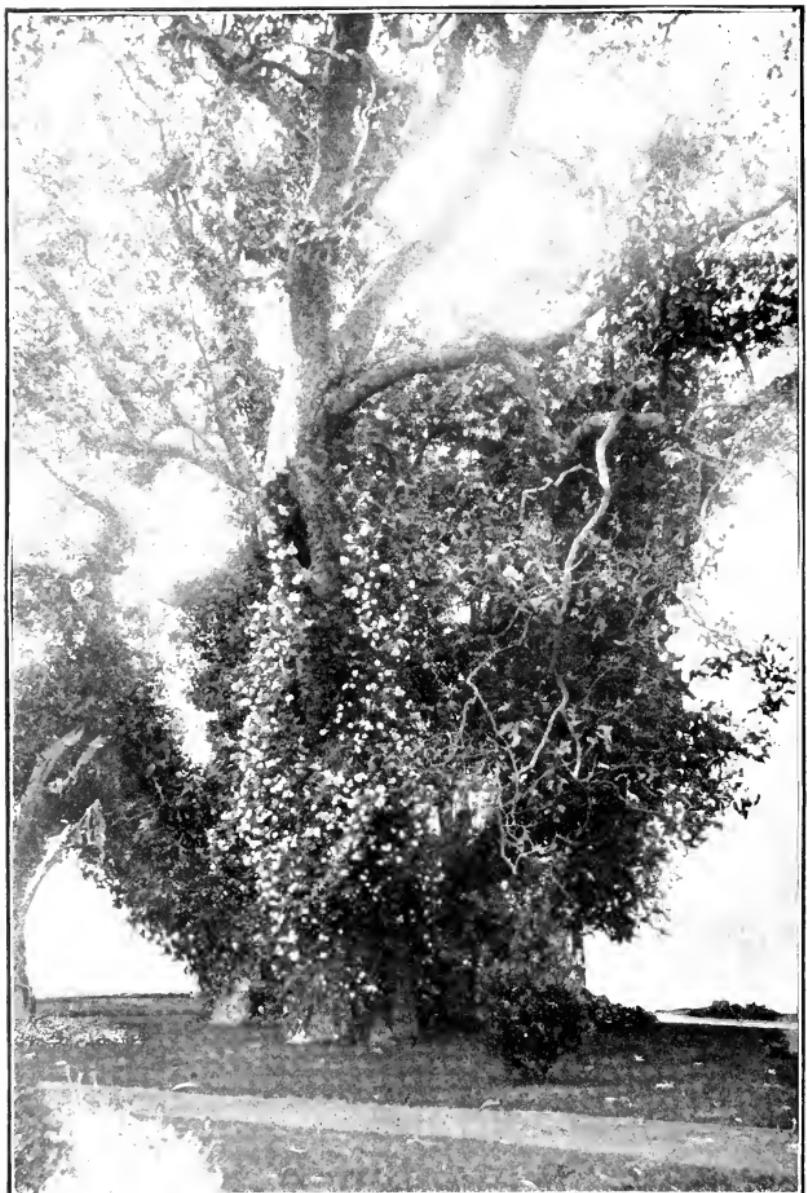
Mr. Stevens then opened a store about where Pire's machine shop is now, and afterward put up a two story building where Hansen's Hall now stands. The lower part was used as a store, and on the upper floor grain was stored. The building was destroyed by the earthquake of 1868, Mr. Stevens narrowly escaping death, at that time there were twenty tons of grain on the top floor. The wooden building that was erected on the site was used as a store by Stevens & Bond, Bond & Haley, Haley & Dodge, W. W. Haley Co.; afterwards it burned down.

Another store was opened about 1854 by Capt. Bond and Capt. Valpey, nearly opposite the Newark road. Afterwards Miss Maria Reeder taught for some time a select school in the building, which was finally moved across the street and now forms a part of the Episcopal rectory.

In 1855, William Barry built a store on the site of the one now occupied by F. C. Harvey, which was long after moved back, and is now a part of the present store. Barry & Wilson kept this store two years. Then it was sold to Steiner, Popper & Co., then to Jacob Salz, to Salz & Niehaus, and then to Jos. Herrscher, of San Leandro. In the early 60's Dr. Robert Hall kept a few drugs for sale, and then a Frenchman went into the drug business; after him came Titus, who was succeeded by A. Lernhart, an expert chemist, pharmacist and druggist; by care and attention he has built up a good business.

The first blacksmith shop was opened by Capt. Bond and James Beazell, nearly opposite the Newark road. Chas. Hilton was the woodworker. The building was afterward moved and rebuilt about where A. Lernhart's drug store is now, and was then run by Seal & Beazell, with Hilton still the woodworker. Mr. Beazell afterward moved to Irvington and then to Livermore, where he followed his trade until called to be State Senator from this county, in 1875. Chas. Hilton remained in Centreville until his death. His widow still makes her home here with her daughter, Mrs. H. W. Lynch.

The first hotel was conducted by William Ogden in a small building on the present site of the Gregory House. Thomas Nusham was the next landlord, and then Mr. Myer; following him came Wm. Milton, Milton & Dildine, and Bamber & McLeod, in 1866 McLeod moved to Irvington and built the Union Hotel. During this time the hotel had burned and Mr. Milton had built a larger and better one. This one also burned and, in 1869, the present Gregory House was built. Under the management of Mr.



SYCAMORES, SYCAMORE FARM.

Henry Gregory this wayside inn became very popular, particularly with the Wheelmen's Clubs.

James Lewis came to Centreville in 1858 and worked a year in the Ogden House; he then rented a place adjoining Capt. Bond's and ran a boarding house. The building was afterward used as a dwelling for two families. Not many years ago it was sold to a Portuguese and moved away. Mr. Lewis built the United States Hotel, in 1859, and was landlord until his death. After that Mrs. Lewis carried on the business until she, too, passed away. Mr. Santos is now the proprietor.

The first town flag-pole was erected near the center of the road. The present one was put up in 1877, is 100 feet high, and floats a forty-foot flag.

The first stage line through Centreville was owned by J. M. Horner. It ran from Mission San Jose to Union City, where it connected with the steamer for San Francisco. Chas. Allen, brother-in-law of J. J. Riser, was the driver.

A stage line running from San Jose to the Embarcadero of San Antonio (now East Oakland) passed through Centreville at an early day. Cameron Brothers soon started an opposition line. The rivalry became intense and excitement ran high. The fare was reduced to twenty-five cents. People traveled for the fun of it. Cameron Brothers came off victorious, and continued to carry on the business for many years in spite of several attempts of rivals to drive them from the field. The fare was permanently fixed at one dollar. The passing of these four-horse coaches was the feature of the day, for they carried not only passengers, but also the mail and express. Mr. Ashley Cameron, one of the brothers, owned a farm near Centreville, and with his family, resided there until his death, a few years ago.

An express line was started about 1855 by Mr. Hoag. Afterwards he sold out to Bamber & Co. C. E. Driscoll was the driver. Later Cameron Brothers carried it. Wm. Barry was the express agent in Centreville.

John Proctor early established the first nursery in the township. Orchards were planted in 1853, and cherries were sent to market in 1861 by Capt. Bond, and sold for thirty cents a pound. Many of the fruit trees planted by the early settlers were brought across the plains, or by way of the Isthmus of Panama. The Alden fruit drier, which dried the fruit by artificial heat, was one of the early industries, but did not flourish long. The building afterwards burned. A cannery met with a like fate. A few years ago another small drier was started by Oliveria & Son, and has proved successful.

In 1859, Mr. Daniel Beck, with his family, came to Centreville

He opened a harness shop, the first in the town, and built up a prosperous trade. In his later years he handed the business over to his son, who now conducts it successfully.

A textile manufactory was established in 1855 by Wm. Barry, where grain bags were made for the use of the farmers.

The first singing school was opened by Mr. and Mrs. Ham. It was well attended, and proved one of the social events of the winter. At the end of the session a grand concert was given by the pupils.

In 1858, Centreville determined to fittingly celebrate the 4th of July. Invitations were sent out to the adjoining towns to participate in the celebration, which was not unlike those of the present day. The Hon. S. B. McKee of Oakland was the orator of the day.

The old May-day picnics were very enjoyable affairs, the whole community taking part. These picnics were made up of family groups and their friends, each group being independent of the others, yet in all cases forming a harmonious whole. There was no dancing then on the grounds, but the day was invariably celebrated by a May-day ball in the evening at Centreville. Later the public picnics came into vogue and eliminated to a great degree the sociability that had existed among the early settlers. In 1862, the May-day ball was held in Milton's hotel, and there were present over one hundred and fifty couples, "the bravest and fairest in the land."

A fine display of the schools of San Lorenzo, Haywards, Alvarado, Irvington and Centreville in the form of a musical celebration or festival was held June 10, 1870, in Centreville, was largely attended, and proved very enjoyable.

It was about the year 1854 that Alameda County became thoroughly aroused by the depredations of a band of cattle thieves, whose operations spread throughout the county. Seemingly, no man's cattle were safe while this state of affairs existed. A mass meeting of the citizens was called to meet at Centreville in the Methodist church. The meeting was largely attended, officers were elected, and an executive committee of twelve appointed. In November, 1855, through the energy of this committee, four of the thieves were captured and taken to Alvarado, where they were placed under guard in the old Brooklyn hotel. During their first night of confinement, two of them, Mexicans, escaped. The irate citizens, determined that the other two should not follow in the footsteps of the fleeing ones, so formed a posse, took the prisoners from their place of confinement, carried them to "The Willows" (on what is now part of the Patterson estate), and hanged them. During the afternoon following the lynching,

an inquest was held, at which Justice Marshall of Mission San Jose presided, and from the evidence presented, the following verdict was brought in: "Found hung, by some person or persons unknown to this jury." The two Mexicans who escaped were pursued, captured, and on the same night met their fate on the banks of the Alameda Creek at the hands of the infuriated and despoiled citizens.

At the time the first two thieves were captured, a lawyer named White was arrested and kept prisoner in Centreville to prevent his assisting the thieves. An investigation of White's actions by the vigilantes caused the arrest of a bad character called "Grizzly Jack," who lived in the hills back of Mission San Jose. A man named Gates was also arrested, but nothing being proved against these two they were set at liberty, though compelled to leave the country. One of them went to Nicaragua with Walker's filibustering expedition, was captured and executed there. The rendezvous of this band of marauders was in Stockton Pass, just beyond Mission San Jose, at a house occupied by one Tom Gear, who fled from the state on the arrest of his confederates.

In 1863 occurred another execution near Alvarado. At this time a band of Mexican desperadoes roamed the hills, and November 23d several parties in Alvarado were fired upon by members of the gang, who immediately fled. The citizens gave pursuit, and captured one of them. He was taken to the Brooklyn House, and placed under guard. That night he was taken out by the vigilantes and hanged. An inquest was held upon his body, Justice Bond of Centreville presiding. Another graphic verdict was produced, the following being its text: "Found hung by the neck to the rail of Alvarado bridge, by person or persons unknown to this jury." It is claimed by old residents of Alvarado that this lynching was performed by residents of Alvarado, and not by the vigilantes, whose organization was established at the mass meeting in Centreville.

In spite of the fact that it was ofttime searched for, the rollcall of Alameda County's vigilantes disappeared as thoroughly as if it had never existed. Doubtless the names written there would have a familiar sound to many old settlers in Washington Township.

An incident of interest may be mentioned here. Mr. Howard Overacker, while walking in the orchard back of his house toward the creek, one Sunday in 1864, heard a call of distress. Hastening to the spot he found a man with a broken leg, who had lain there several days without food or other relief. This was a Mr. Gardener, who, with his companion, Mr. Rice, a well-known auctioneer of San Francisco, was driving from San Francisco via Haywards to the then famous resort of Warm Springs, but in the darkness of

the night they turned on the road running past the old adobe in the nursery grounds. Reaching the bank of the creek, the horses stopped, but the driver foolishly gave them a sharp cut with the whip, and all plunged about twenty-five feet down into the creek. Mr. Rice was killed, but with careful nursing Mr. Gardiner recovered.

Politically Centreville has been well represented in the county and state. Upon the organization of the county in 1853, Wm. H. Coombs was elected district attorney, J. S. Marston, county treasurer, and W. W. Brier, county superintendent of schools. In 1854 C. C. Breyfogle was elected assessor, and at the expiration of his term of office, was elected county treasurer.

The county Board of Supervisors was organized May 9, 1855. In 1862, Howard Overacker was elected supervisor, which office he held until 1866. In 1871 he was again elected, and continued to hold the position until 1880, when he was succeeded by Henry Dusterberry, also a resident of Centreville. The present incumbent, C. F. Horner, was elected in 1901.

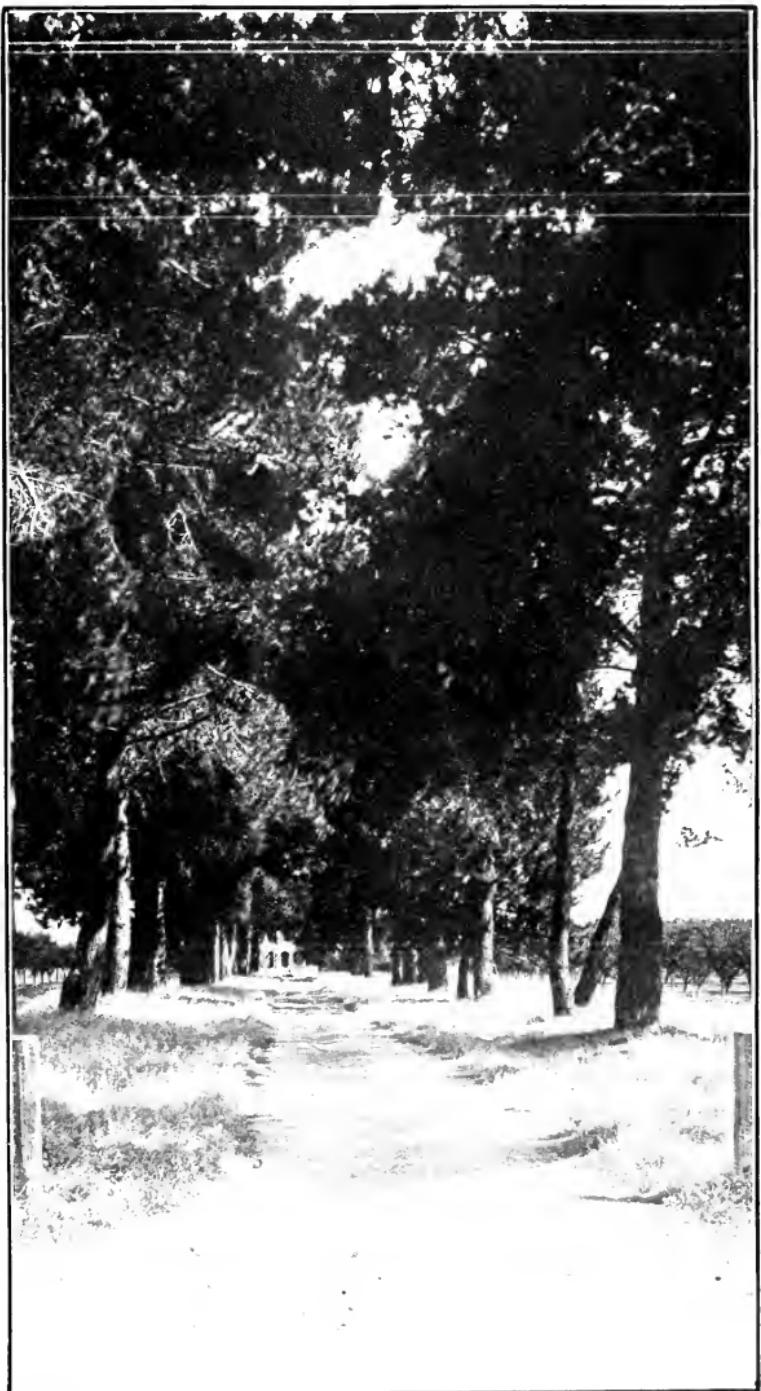
The office of superintendent of schools was held by W. F. B. Lynch from 1873 to 1877.

John L. Beard was chosen state senator in 1896, and the present assemblyman is John G. Mattos, Jr. Judge Sandholdt is serving his third term as justice of the peace.

Dr. Selfridge held the office of coroner from 1858 to 1860.

One of the earliest settlers in Centreville was the Rev. W. W. Brier, who came from Indiana with his young wife. He was the moving spirit in the establishment of churches, not only in this part of the country, but all over the state. He had charge of the Centreville and Alvarado churches for several years, afterward devoting his time to home mission work, and the cultivation of a fine fruit farm. Dr. Bucknel and Dr. Geo. Goucher were among the early settlers, but did very little in the way of their profession. Dr. J. M. Selfridge, now of Oakland, was the first physician to take up a regular practice in the township. His practice was large, and he was one of the familiar features of the time as he rode about the country in his sulky, visiting the sick. He was prominent in church and school work, and was ever ready with a helping hand for those who needed assistance or encouragement.

Dr. Cyrus H. Allen, who served in the 8th Vermont Regiment as surgeon throughout the Civil War, came to California to recuperate his broken health and settled at once in Centreville, in 1867. He has lived here continuously ever since, engaged in the active practice of his profession; in the early days fording swollen streams on horseback, or in his high sulky, traveling all over the valley



PINE AVENUE ON THE H. OVERACKER PLACE.

and into the high hills and mountains as far as Livermore and beyond; for it often happened that he was the only physician between San Jose and San Lorenzo. Known far and near he is considered as belonging to the township rather than any one locality. He has recently associated with him a younger man, Dr. C. A. Wills, whose home is also in the village. Other physicians who have been residents of the town are Drs. Robert Hall, Buteau, Hastings, Hall, Walliser, Cabral and Emerson; the latter two are now living here and in active practice.

The legal profession has always been well represented by men of excellent reputation. Mr. T. C. Huxley, who has achieved an enviable distinction in a legal way, came to the township in 1875, residing at the Mission and on a ranch near Warm Springs for a time; since then he has made his home in Centreville, where he has an office and one also in Oakland. His example has been followed in this respect by Hon. John G. Mattos, Jr., Mr. Benjamin Mickle, although a more recent comer makes a third in this trio of lawyers, who are well and favorably known, not only throughout the county, but in this part of the State. Mr. John J. Riser, who came to the State in 1847 as a soldier of the Mexican War, settled in the vicinity of Centreville, in 1851, and resided in the town continuously until the spring of 1904.

Captain James R. Trefry came to the township at an early day and was captain of the steamer "Union," which ran from Alvarado to San Francisco and other points. He built one of the first houses in Centreville, was constable for many years and a terror to evil doers. He has a fund of interesting reminiscences of pioneer days; in 1902 he moved to Newark where he still resides.

Another of Centreville's early settlers was George Lowrie, who came in 1853, and who still resides in the vicinity.

George W. Patterson came to the state in 1849, and soon after engaged successfully in grain farming near Centreville. He gave generously to the civil war funds, for the relief of the Nebraska sufferers in 1873, to schools and to other worthy causes. His fine grove of oaks and walnuts grown from nuts brought from Indiana are a fitting monument to his enterprise and love of forestry. The sons have handsome and substantial dwellings on the homestead.

Abijah Baker, also an early settler, owned a large farm in the neighborhood, and also gave generously to good causes. The lot upon which the Lincoln school stands was his gift to the district.

Dr. Lorenzo Yates was the first dentist, but he is better known as a careful and scientific investigator. He gave much attention to the Indian antiquities of the township, and collected an extensive cabinet of Indian and other curiosities. Many of these are

now in Golden Gate Park Museum of San Francisco. Most of the curios in the cabinet of Lincoln School District were donated by him. He also recorded a number of geological and barometrical facts of value. He has written several scientific books of note, and is a member of the very exclusive scientific Linnean Society of London, having received his appointment on the demise of Asa Grey, the noted botanist. There were but eight other members of this society in the United States at that time. Dr. Yates now resides in Santa Barbara.

Rev. W. F. B. Lynch was one of Centreville's most influential citizens. He was called in 1868 as pastor of the Presbyterian church, which position he held several years. He identified himself with the educational interests of the township and county, and was instrumental in founding Washington College, intending to establish and incorporate there the main features of the Polytechnic schools. In 1873 he was elected county superintendent of schools, continued to hold the office until 1877, and was several years a member of the board of education. Very popular with the young people of the township, he was often called upon to perform their marriage ceremonies.

When the Alameda Creek formerly poured down in a flood, a portion of the stream flowed through "Crandall Slough," a half mile below Centreville. Near its banks on the Alvarado road stands a tiny house with doors and windows gone. This was the residence of the Crandall family, from whom the slough received its name. Mr. and Mrs. Crandall were people of much intelligence and of marked character. They were vegetarians in diet, and believed in dress reform, Mrs. Crandall appearing in the first "bloomers" ever worn in this section.

This slough was broadened and deepened by the great flood of 1862, and a deep pond was washed out back of the Hawley home in George Patterson's field. There was a spring here at the time, and the waters coming in a rushing torrent enlarged it into a pond, so deep that it was never fathomed until a few years ago, after it had filled in, when the depth was found to be twenty-four feet.

The ranch of E. L. Beard was over-run at that time by so many gophers that the grain crops were seriously threatened. The flood destroyed these pests, and also destroyed many large sycamore trees. The flood was caused by the extremely heavy rains and the melting of the snow that had fallen to an unusual depth in the hills that year, the Livermore high ridge having snow on it as late as May.

About half a mile beyond the Crandall slough was "Pacheco Lane" (now part of the Decoto-Jarvis Landing road), leading from

the old adobe house on the Alameda Creek, the home of the Pacheco family, to the main road. Following this lane was a ditch (a part of which still remains) that marked the boundary between the Pacheco and Alviso grants. The ditch ran from the creek southwest to the corner of the Antone George property and the Patterson estate, where it turned westward across the field, and a mile beyond was lost in the swamp. This willow swamp, covering over one hundred acres, was fed by fresh water springs that kept the ground wet and supported a dense undergrowth. Since the establishment of pumping plants and reservoirs for supplying the bay cities with water, these springs have disappeared, the trees are dying, and the swamp will before many years become only a memory. It was originally a part of the Alviso grant, but is now owned by the heirs of George Patterson and Samuel F. Brown. Scattered through it are many fine sycamore and oak trees, some of them rivaling in size and beauty any that are to be found in the valley.

In the fifty years of which we write, there has been but one serious alarm to the inhabitants. This was the earthquake of October, 1868. The Presbyterian church was so badly damaged that it had to be rebuilt. Stevens' store fell, and Milton's hotel slid from its under-pinnings. All over the valley, chimneys fell or were twisted completely around. Those on Howard Overacker's house went through the roof. The back part of Dr. Selfridge's house, which was built of concrete, was thrown down. The family then moved to Oakland, where the doctor had preceded them two years before. The earth continued to quake with more or less force for several days.

The Washington-Murray Township Water Company was organized here May 17, 1871. The purpose was to preserve the water rights of Alameda Creek for the use of the people of the two townships, but the purpose was afterwards defeated.

The first fraternal order in the township, the "Sons of Temperance," called the "Agricola Division," was organized June, 1855, in Mr. Brier's study. The meetings were held in the Ogden Hotel.

The organization of the "Pioneer Society" was suggested by Wm. M. Liston and Wm. Barry by a notice published in the "Independent" of November, 1876, calling for a meeting to be held in Centreville on November 29. Although there was a meeting on that day, the organization was not completed until December 23d, with the following officers: President, Capt. George Bond; first vice-president, William Liston; second vice-president, C. C. Scott; treasurer, L. E. Osgood; and secretary, William Barry, who is the only survivor of these officers. One hundred and two pioneers signed the constitution, all of whom were residents of the

township at this time, and who had arrived in California prior to March 23, 1853. Of these but forty are now living, and but eight have continued in full membership. These members have their annual banquets at the Gregory House in Centreville, where they live over in anecdote and story the halcyon days of the past.

There were nineteen honorary members who were the wives and daughters of these men. Of these, Mrs. W. W. Brier, Mrs. Mary Brier Moores, Mrs. James Hawley, Mrs. Clara Hawley Layson, Mrs. Emeline Tyson, Mrs. John Hall, Mrs. Mary Emerson and Mrs. Laura Walton are the only survivors.

Alameda Lodge No. 167, F. and A. M., was organized September 9, 1863. Of the first officers only Perry Morrison is living. The order erected Masonic Hall on the Niles road on a lot given by Howard Overacker. The lower floor is used for a banquet room, and above is the pleasant lodge room and different ante-rooms. The fraternity held a great celebration February 22, 1866, which was pronounced at the time the most brilliant social event ever given in the valley, some two hundred and fifty people participating in the gaieties incident to the ball and supper.

A Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star was organized in Masonic Hall in 1899, receiving a charter six months later, the legal time. The Chapter meets once a month, and has nearly one hundred members.

At one time the Grangers had a large and flourishing society, which was very active in an industrial and social way.

December 15, 1881, Centreville Council I. O. O. F. was instituted with sixty-five members.

Washington Parlor 169, N. S. G. W., was organized December 13, 1890, and now has a membership of sixty-nine.

Centreville Lodge 170, K. of P., which was organized in November, 1890, has a present membership of forty-seven.

Maple Camp No. 146, W. of W., was organized May 19, 1894, and has now a membership of one hundred and seventeen. In this time it has paid for death losses \$6,000, and erected two monuments to departed members.

Central Assembly No. 191, U. A., organized January 22, 1900, in Hansen's Hall, has a membership of sixty-nine, is a very popular order, and growing rapidly.

Amor da Patria Conselho No. 5, U. P.E. C., is a very strong Portuguese society, organized August 12, 1888, having a present membership of two hundred and eighty-four. It is the largest of the five lodges in the township, and the fraternal society having the largest representation in the township.

Freitas No. 27, I. D. E. S., another Portuguese lodge, was organized February 28, 1900, and its membership is now eighty-

nine. The object of these societies is mutual protection and fraternal aid.

There are also two Portuguese women's societies, the S.P.R.S.I., and the Portuguese Protective. It will be seen from the number of these societies that the fraternal spirit is strong in the village.

The present township Red Cross Society was organized in Centreville in 1898, and its ninety-two enrolled members did efficient work during the Spanish war. A fund still remains in the bank for future needs.

There is a woman's society connected with each of the Protestant churches, and both are in a flourishing condition.

The town hall of Centreville was erected by its citizens in 1868. When about to be sold to satisfy a mortgage, the ladies of the town formed an association and purchased the property. It is now under their control, and they attend to all the business connected with it.

An expedition to Alaska for gold left Centreville in June, 1882. It was organized by John Lowrie and Samuel Marston, and several members of the company were from this township. They reached their destination and located their mine, which gave promise of being very rich. Leaving part of the company there for the winter, Mr. Lowrie and Mr. Marston started for home with a load of ore, expecting to return to the mine in the spring. Soon after their departure from St. Michaels heavy storms arose, and the vessel was never after heard from. The following year James Hawley and others, who had remained at the mines through the winter, returned, but the company was never reorganized.

The town has a unique branch of the S. P. R. R., the freight and passengers being transported in cars drawn by two or three horses driven tandem. It breaks the record for speed, (nothing slower) for safety, and for politeness of conductor. It is said to pay better than any other three miles of railroad in the state. 1902 was a light year for freight, as most of the fruit in this section was dried, but over two thousand tons were hauled out, and nearly two thousand tons brought in. Fifteen hundred dollars' worth of tickets were sold.

A suburb populated by Portuguese is called Sack City. It will be well to give the different versions of the way it received this name. Some say the first settlers came from Sacramento. Others that it is like a sack, with only one road to go in or to come out. Still others say that all that the residents lived on at first was what they brought in in sacks. The inhabitants have cozy homes surrounded by small orchards.

A new industry has lately been established by the C. C. Morse Company of the Santa Clara and Gilroy seed gardens. They

PEPPER TREE ON THE HUNLEY PLACE



have leased five hundred acres of the Patterson estate, just back of town, where they raise all kinds of vegetable seeds, and also a fine variety of sweet pea seeds. The flowers when in bloom present acres of brilliant blossoms of many different varieties.

Many of the suburban homes about Centreville are interesting for their fine old trees and shrubs, planted years ago by men coming from eastern homes who realized the value of ornamental as well as useful improvements. Unfortunately, many beautiful old trees have been sacrificed by the thoughtless or over-provident.

On the road toward Niles is the orchard and home lately owned by Howard Overacker, Jr., now the property of the Spring Valley Water Company. The entrance to the driveway is marked by two sequoia trees. Adjoining is the home of Howard Overacker, Sr., approached by an avenue of stately pines. In the yard is a large elm tree, from which the place receives its name.

Out of town, on the Irvington road, one passes the Fair home, with its beautiful rose garden; the Huxley's, with its immense pepper trees; and the Norris, Blacow, Eggers, Chadbourne and Emerson places, all having once been owned by the first settlers; many of the old houses are still standing. The Norris, Eggers and Blacow homes are still owned by the families of the pioneers. In 1860, Mr. Blacow, Sr., bought some lately-imported French merino sheep, which proved a good investment under his management.

The pretty cottage, with handsome grounds, of Mr. Fred Horner our present supervisor, is also on this road.

On one of the roads leading to Newark is the fine farm of Henry Dusterberry, who came here in 1854. Also those of Joseph and Monroe Norris, and the pleasant homes of John Mattos, Sr., and the Hon. John Mattos, Jr.

On the more direct road to Newark is "Sycamore Farm," the home of John A. Bunting. The house, grounds and barns are lighted by electricity manufactured on the place, the first plant in the township. The engines used for this purpose and for pumping water for irrigating, burns crude oil brought from the oil wells owned by Mr. Bunting in Kern County. A pomegranite hedge extends across the whole front of the place on the county road. a large conservatory and an aviary are other attractions of this hospitable home. Near the house are some fine old sycamores, which give name to the place.

The home of Mrs. Wales, widow of William Wales, who settled here in 1854, is further down the road.

On the Alvarado road are situated the homes and large orchards of Walter Walton, Benj. Mickle, George and Fred Lowrie. Just beyond is the big ranch of Eugene Stevenson, with its commo-

dious farmhouses. On this ranch near the creek are five of the largest sycamore trees in the valley, one of them being eighty feet high, eighty feet from tip to tip of limbs, and twenty-two feet in circumference at its base.

At the corner of the Decoto road is the Brier homestead, now passed into the hands of Portuguese, and divided into small holdings, upon which are erected attractive cottages. It was noticeable for its fine old maple and walnut trees, but many of them have recently been cut down.

The large farm of the late Senator John L. Beard is about a half mile down the road toward Alvarado. It was inherited from his grandfather, Mr. Jesse Beard, who came here in 1854, and engaged in farming and fruit culture, which has been carried on successfully ever since. Some of the pear trees, still in bearing, are of those brought across the plains in the pioneer days. Many fine California walnut and elm trees ornament the grounds. One walnut tree, probably the largest in the country, measures fifteen feet in circumference four feet from the ground.

Just opposite the Beard place is the home of James Hawley, one of the forty-niners. The family still occupy the house built by Mr. Hawley in 1852.

Some of the other early settlers of this locality were the Walker Bakers, the Saunders, the Whiddens, Curtners, Morrisons, McCormicks and Watsons.

The first Portuguese family to settle in the neighborhood was that of Frank Rogers, whose son now owns the place bought by his father in 1866. Since then many of that nationality have purchased land and built pretty and attractive homes. Their well-kept grounds and fields speak well for their thrift and industry.

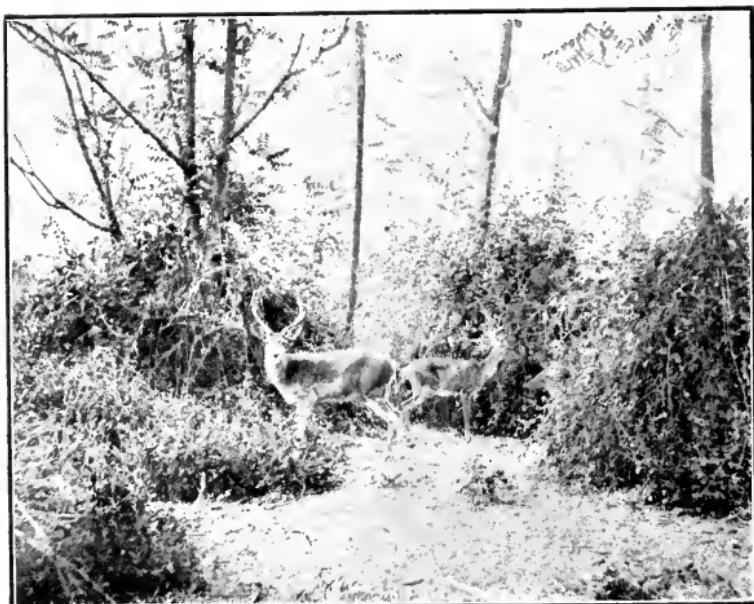
Some distance from the village, yet connected with it by its extensive farming land, is "Ardenwood," the Patterson estate, interesting for its fine grove of trees, and its deer park, where, in the thickly-clustered trees and tangled vines, about forty deer make their home. Besides the natural growth of willows and live oaks, there are fine specimens of burr oak, black walnut, wild plum, hickory, maple and hackberry trees, raised from seeds and slips brought from the woods of Indiana by Mr. George W. Patterson.

The Centreville public school has the largest attendance of any in the township. A new primary room with all of the latest improvements as to lighting, ventilation, etc., has lately been built, and is presided over by a daughter of an old resident, F. M. Hilton. H. W. Lynch, a son of the late W. F. B. Lynch, has for several years been the efficient principal, and has three assistants. The school yard is large, and has a number of fine, big trees. The

Union High school, which ranks among the best in the state, was located here an account of the central position. There are five teachers employed. The town has always been one of the business centers of the valley, and has a population of about 1200. There are good stores, hotels, and shops of different kinds; artisans and mechanics are well represented, and in fact nearly all of the crafts have some followers.

Along the tree-bordered streets are the pleasant homes of the villagers, varying from modest cottages to large dwellings of citified appearance. Nearly all have roomy grounds abounding with fine trees, and beautiful shrubs and flowers.

In selecting this site for a village the early settlers chose wisely so far as climatic conditions are concerned. The winds which suck down through the canons seldom blow here. The fogs which sometimes visit the valley drifting in along the mountains and the bay, frequently leave this place in sunshine, or if they do float in break away earlier than elsewhere. Near the hills, on very hot days, the heat is reflected, and then there is often two or three degrees difference in temperature in favor of Centreville, so that altogether it is a favored locality.



Deer Park, "Ardenwood"

Civil War Notes.

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URING the years of the Civil War, even at this great distance from the scenes of actual conflict, there were preparations made for defence if not for actual assault.

A Union County Convention, held at San Leandro, June 14, 1862, was attended by many of the leading citizens of Washington Township. At this convention delegates to a State convention, to convene in Sacramento, were elected, and J. M. Moore, of Centreville, was one of them. In 1863, another convention of unionists was held at the same place, June 13th, and Howard Overacker was the elected delegate from Washington Township. In 1863 the union feeling was so strong that many patriotic celebrations and bazaars were held in aid of the Sanitary Commission. A somewhat ludicrous event relating to one of these celebrations was thus chronicled in an Oakland paper: "A grand celebration was held on the Fourth of July at Alvarado, a cannon was purchased by means of which no small amount of powder was burned, and the people in the vicinity complained that they touched the thing off too often. In point of fact, they did touch it off at a charivari of a newly married couple, placing it against the house, which did seem to be once too many times."

The next Fourth of July, at the second discharge, the gun burst, sending the fragments in every direction, so nearly causing a serious accident that one of the skirts of Capt. Benson's coat was taken off as clean as though cut with a knife. Some amusing incidents occurred in Centreville, although attended by a good deal of excitement; James Lewis, of the United States Hotel, who was a rebel sympathizer, hoisted on his flag-pole a Confederate flag; he was waited upon by a committee of Union men and given the alternative of hauling down the flag or having the pole cut. The flag came down.

At another time, someone raised the flag on the pole which stood where the present one is, with the stars down. The story runs that "Old Man Harlan" saw it as he came in town and the insult fired his blood; he went into the store nearby, took an ax, came out and ordered the offenders to "right that flag in five minutes time." The order was speedily obeyed.

At an enthusiastic meeting of Union men at San Leandro

held October 29, 1863, there was a delegation from Washington Corners, with J. T. Walker as marshal, one from Centreville, led by J. M. Moore as marshal, and one from Alvarado, including the military company of Home Guards in full uniform under the leadership of Judge Williams.

During this year the Supervisors imposed a war tax of fifteen cents ad valorem on each one hundred dollars worth of property, and a poll-tax of two dollars per capita on each male citizen between the ages of twenty-one and sixty years.

In the latter part of the same year, under a new State law, Major Thompson, of Oakland, was commissioned to raise a battalion for active service in the war, and a company of dragoons was organized at Centreville, known as the "California One Hundred." Capt. E. S. Eigenbrodt, of Alvarado, was the commander of this company, and John R. Sim, a son of Mr. Sim who lived on what is now the Shinn place, was First Lieutenant.

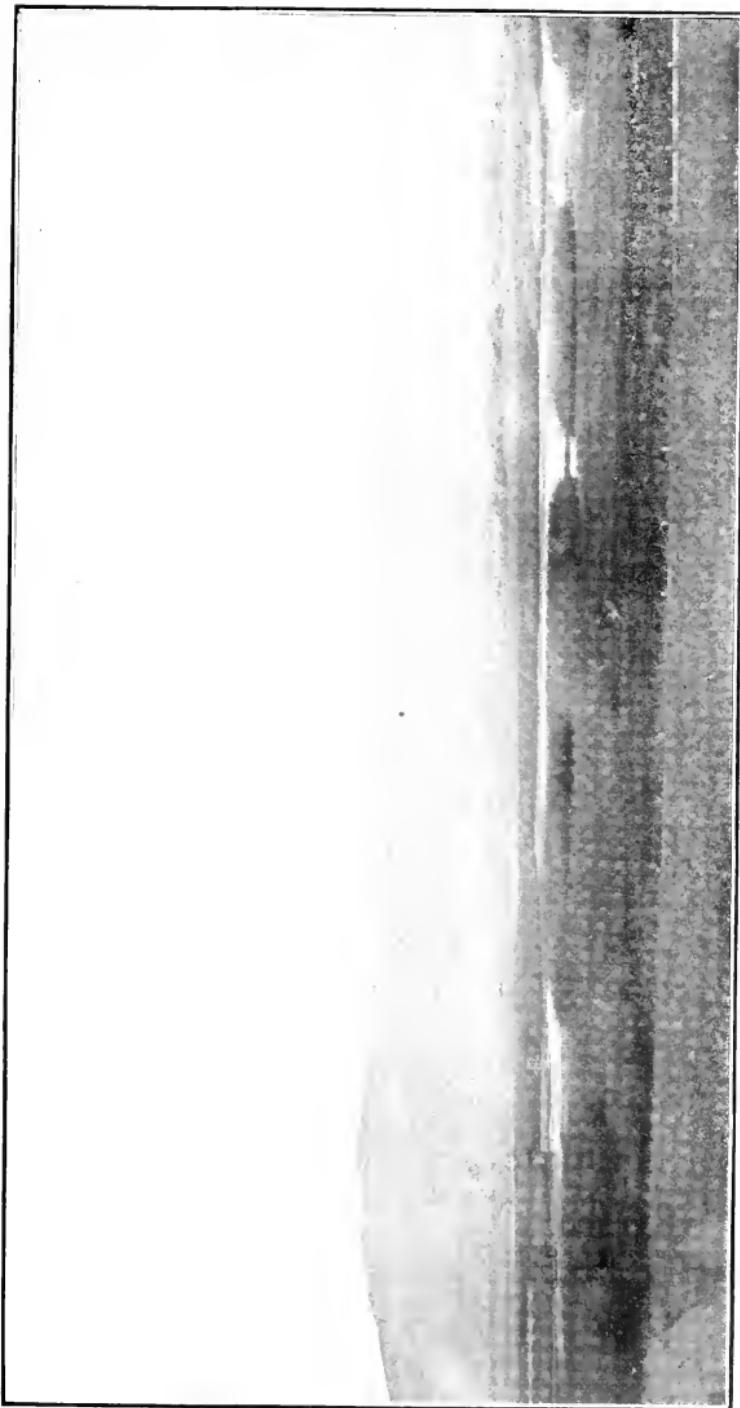
John Campbell, who lived near what is now Hall's Station, was a private, and also Hiram Clark, of Alvarado, who afterward commanded a company of colored troops.

The battalion was subsequently attached to the Massachusetts 2d Cavalry to fill out the quota of that regiment.

On the 2d of September, 1864, while gallantly leading a charge at the head of his command in an engagement in the Shenandoah Valley, Captain Eigenbrodt was killed. The news of his death was received here with great sorrow and all who knew him mourned the untimely death of this generous, warm-hearted man and good and loyal citizen.



LAGOON, IRINGTON.



Irvington.

IRVINGTON, situated at the crossing of the roads leading from the old Mission and diverging to Centreville and Warm Springs, received its first name of "Nigger Corners" from two negroes who kept a saloon on one corner and who, perhaps, were the first residents of what is now Irvington. Afterwards the residents decided to change the name to a more fitting one and did so by merely meeting and agreeing to call their settlement Washington Corners. Objections were made to "The Corners," as it was commonly called, so it was determined to again change the name.

A mass meeting was called and it was voted to name the town Irving. The railroad people had been informed of the contemplated change and through a misunderstanding got out a quantity of printed matter for "Irvington," so to avoid confusion Irvington was adopted as the name and post-office. Its proximity to the old Mission, the richness of the surrounding country, and the fact of two creeks running through the land were considered advantages in locating the town.

In 1846, there came to San Francisco the famous ship "Brooklyn," with her passengers, who formed the earliest permanent settlers of the State. Among these passengers were John M. Horner, Earl Marshal and his wife, Simeon Stivers (his adopted son), and Origin Mowry. In 1847 John M. Horner and his bride came to Washington Corners to live. At this time there was not another American resident between Mission San Jose and the Contra Costa line; and there were not five men of the Anglo-Saxon race north of San Francisco Bay. His son, William, born in 1848, was the first white child born in the township.

In 1847, Earl Marshall and Simeon Stivers came to Mission San Jose, and in 1850 settled on a large tract of land back of the Horner place and west of the Tule pond, known now as the Stivers' place, where Mr. Stivers' widow and children still reside.

Origin Mowry, in 1848, navigated the southern end of San Francisco Bay, and sailing up the creek, which afterwards became known as Mowry's Creek, landed at the place now called Mowry's Landing.

In 1849 Timothy Rix arrived in San Francisco and in 1853 settled on what is now known as the Montross ranch. He was the first postmaster in Washington Corners.

Among other pioneer settlers were J. T. Walker, who came in 1849; A. B. Montross, in 1850; Richard Threlfall, Nathaniel Babb, G. M. Walters, and W. Millard, in 1852; L. E. Osgood, John Blacow, Jas. Emerson and John Proctor, in 1853.

The late Mrs. Hiram Davis, a resident of Irvington, was the oldest native daughter in the State. Mrs. Abbey, an early settler near Mowry's Landing, was the first white woman to settle in what is now Oakland, and her son Robert was the first white child born in Oakland.

Capt. D. S. Tabbutt, a resident of Irvington, came to California in the early 60's as mate on a vessel which brought the lumber and machinery for the first saw mill erected on Puget Sound.

None of the early white settlers built dwellings of adobe, but used instead tents for temporary shelter or a redwood frame covered with blue denim or white canvas. Then split shake houses were constructed, the shakes having been cut in the San Antonio redwoods. Nearly all floors were made of Eastern wood. More substantial buildings were made of the lumber shipped around Cape Horn, and still other houses were constructed in sections, numbered and ready to be put together. Of the houses shipped around the Horn there are two in Irvington. One on the Centreville road, on the John Stevenson estate. This house was brought in 1852, and in the spring of the next year was bought by Timothy Rix and erected on the spot where it now stands. The roof was corrugated zinc. The other is now used as a barn by Chris Miller, near the depot.

In 1851, James Hawley bought a cargo of lumber of Capt. Taylor in which were three frame buildings, one of which was sold to J. M. Horner and was used in building a part of his house on Mission Creek. The floors of this house were made of imported Australian eucalyptus wood. The old house still stands on the road between Irvington and Niles, in front of which extends an old iron fence imported from England. The walls of this old house now falling to decay with the wear of a half century, echo to naught but the frisking of mice within the hay and the cooing of doves beneath the roof. In contrast to this tumbling ruin is the well-preserved residence of the late O. O. Slayton, on the mountain road between Niles and the Mission San Jose, which was built in the same year by Gov. Blaisdell, of Nevada.

The first house in Irvington was built where the Palmdale Winery now stands and was afterwards moved to the corner now occupied by C. Rasmussen. It was used for a saloon, which was kept by the two negroes after whom the town received its name of "Nigger Corners."

The first school in Irvington was a private one taught by M.



The Old J. M. Horner House, Irvington.

M. Spencer, in a small building (now a granary), owned by G. M. Walters, situated where Clark's Hall now stands. There were eight pupils, but as Mr. Spencer received but twenty dollars a month, without the privilege of boarding round, his position could scarcely have been considered a very lucrative one.

The first public school house was a small building that had been moved from Centreville to a lot now owned by Mr. C. Christensen, near the depot. School was opened in 1862, with Harvey Green, a Latter Day Saints' Elder, the first teacher, and Wm. G. Horner, G. M. Walters and Wm. Hopkins, trustees. School continued here until 1873. Among the other teachers being J. C. Gilson and W. F. B. Lynch, both of whom succeeded to the superintendency of Alameda County schools.

In 1873 the present building was erected, and the school has now an attendance of 110 pupils. The present teachers are F. Kenneth Reynolds, Minnie G. Galindo and Julia S. Emerson, all residents of Irvington.

Aside from the library, which is a good one, the school is well equipped in all necessary and useful apparatus.

In 1871, Washington College was built by the people of the township, and in July, 1872, the school was opened by Rev. and Mrs. S. S. Harmon as a mixed school. Albert Lyser succeeded the Harmons for one year. In 1883, Rev. J. Durham and Mr. Pollard opened the school as a sectarian college for boys and girls, under

the auspices of the Christian Church. The Rev. J. H. McCollough succeeded Mr. Pollard the following year. In 1896, the school was converted into a seminary for girls, conducted by Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Ingram, and called Curtner Seminary. On the morning of July 4th, 1899, the main building was consumed by fire and owing to the illness of Mrs. Ingram the school was abandoned.

In 1900, W. W. Anderson, of Hopkin's Academy, Oakland, and later of the University Academy, Alameda, liberally assisted by the residents of Irvington and surrounding towns, erected a building on the site of the old College for a Military Academy, which is now a first class accredited school.

The first church in Irvington was built by the Latter Day Saints, in the early part of 1867. In the early 80's services were held regularly by the Episcopalians in this same building, conducted by the Rev. J. H. Babcock; but this building was destroyed by fire in 1885.

In 1884, the Christians, liberally assisted by the people of Irvington, erected a church on San Jose Avenue on a lot donated by G. M. Walters. This church is free to all denominations to use for religious purposes.

Mission Peak Lodge, No. 114, I. O. O. F., which was the second lodge instituted in the eastern part of Alameda County, was organized in 1863 with ten charter members. The first Noble Grand was Chester Harris. In 1890, a fine large brick building was erected by the order. The membership now numbers eighty-two. Aqua Pura Rebekah Lodge, No. 193, was instituted on July 19, 1893, with forty-seven charter members. The first Noble Grand was Mrs. V. A. Rix. The membership at the present time is over one hundred. The Odd Fellows' Cemetery was dedicated in 1872.

On May 4, 1870, the I. O. G. T. instituted a Lodge in Irvington with six charter members, Wm. Y. Horner was the first Worthy Chief.

The Knights of Pythias was instituted in the early '80s and existed for about a year and a half.

Buckeye Camp, Woodmen of the World, was instituted May 22, 1897, with fifteen charter members, P. J. Crosby being the first Consul Commander. Afterward they affiliated with the Woodmen of the World of Centreville.

Court Irvington, No. 3802, Independent Order of Foresters, was instituted October 2, 1899, with sixteen charter members; E. B. Thompson was the Chief Ranger.

Notably among the early local literary societies were the Dramatic Club of the later 70's, the Lyceum of the early 80's, and the Irvington Literary and Social Club of the early 90's.

Among its most profitable pursuits in early days Washington Township ranked high in its vegetable productions. In 1850, potatoes raised in Irvington sold in San Francisco at fourteen cents per pound, and the profits from one thousand acres, in 1851, were \$160,000! Three-fourths of an acre of tomatoes, the same year, sold for \$10,000; and cabbages sold at \$1.50 each.

Dairying also ranked high. Mrs. J. A. Brewer made and sold \$2,500 worth of butter in 1855, making at each churning not less than \$20 worth.

The first blacksmith and wheelwright shops in the county were built by J. M. Horner at his residence. There was then no Oakland, no Brooklyn, no San Leandro and no Alvarado, and people often came fifteen miles to get blacksmithing done. The first blacksmith shop in the town of Irvington was owned by Mr. Wm. Sim, who located there in 1850.

Albert E. Lyser and W. W. Theobalds edited the first paper in the township, the "Independent," at The Corners, in 1874 or early in 1875.

Mr. Wm. H. Mack was the first station agent and mail carrier and second postmaster; the original post-office building is now in the possession of the Mack family.

In 1853, Earl Marshall obtained some three hundred grafted fruit trees from New Jersey of different varieties. They came packed in moss and charcoal and were carried on mule back across the Isthmus of Panama. The trees were planted by different settlers, flourished and paid for themselves many times over after they began to bear.

A few of the old apple trees that were brought across the Isthmus in 1862 are still growing and bearing fruit in the orchard at the Mowry homestead.

As Irvington grew in population and land was taken up and cultivated, new industries were established and improvements were made that added much to the appearance and general usefulness of the town. Here is located the Palmdale Wine Co., which has the second largest wine cellar in California. There are also four smaller cellars owned by different parties. At Chadbourne's orchard about \$8,000 worth of fruit is dried each year. Great quantities of peas, potatoes, rhubarb, asparagus and loganberries are shipped to the markets in their seasons.

In 1887, an iron flag-pole, 110 feet high, was erected.

Mr. H. Crowell, who has just sold out his business to Mr. Tierney and retired, was the "village blacksmith" for over forty years. His large manufactory of cylinder teeth has made his name well-known throughout the state; the annual output is from ten to fifty thousand. Adjoining the blacksmith shop is A. O. Rix's

wheelwright shop. Mr. Rix is the inventor and manufacturer of one of the most successful almond hullers on the market. He also carries on a large industry in cut flowers.

In earlier years the tule pond was a great resort for hunters. In the fall of '83, F. M. Smith, of Oakland, established a Gun Club there; houses were built and tended by keepers, but the pond being small and not many flocks of ducks flying, it has been abandoned as a hunter's resort. The tuiles from this pond are gathered each year in bales, numbering several thousand, and are sold to the California and other nurseries, where they are used for the packing of trees and plants for shipment.

The Irvington Brass Band, which was established in 1901 with Mr. A. L. Sunderer as director, is a credit to the town. The services of the band are in demand for parties and dances, picnics, political campaigns, etc.

The burning of the big warehouse on September 3, 1880, was one of the most disastrous fires in the township. On Thanksgiving eve of 1881 the burning of Beard's barn destroyed the first old landmark. After the burning of the Walker warehouse, a hose and bucket brigade was organized; but this did not prove effectual in checking the big fire of December, 1887, which caught in the printing office and swept out nearly the whole business portion of the town.

The Landing, afterwards known as Mowry's and later as Larkins', was first used by the Mission Fathers in the early 40's, for the shipment of their wines and hides.

In 1850, regular trips were made to and from San Francisco by the ship "Neptune," owned by Barton and Origin Mowry. Mowry's Landing was used until 1870 as an active shipping point for grain from all parts of the township, farmers coming even from Pleasanton and Sunol, bringing their produce for shipment. The narrow gauge railroad was completed through the valley about this time and the bulk of the shipments since then have been made by rail.

Two Indian mounds have been unearthed in this vicinity; one where the station now stands and another near Mowry's Landing. Many skulls and bones of Indians have been and are still found in the marshes and pastures of this section. Mastodon teeth have also been unearthed in this neighborhood.

In early days Mowry's was a flourishing district. Mr. Mack kept a store at the Landing in the early 50's and did a thriving business. The building was afterwards moved to Irvington where it now stands. The Mowry school house was among the earliest ones and numbered many pupils. The Camerons, Weeks, McDavidis, Moores, Mowrys, Risers, Morgans, Threlfalls, Proctors,

Emmets, Eggers and Marstons all studied the "three R's" at this little district school house. It was built by John McDavid and Origin Mowry, assisted financially by other settlers.

Among the natural and unusual resources of Mowry's is a deposit of peat of a hundred thousand tons. It is spongy, the ground shaking and quivering under foot. This peat is a good fertilizer and an excellent fuel, being clean to handle and free from soot.

The following is a list of the early business men and their successors, which may prove of some value to any interested in the commercial and political affairs of the town:

POSTMASTERS

Timothy Rix.	R. B. Crowell.
W. H. Mack.	N. L. Babb.
A. S. Clark.	O. N. Hirsch.
N. L. Babb.	E. B. Thompson.

STATION AGENTS

W. H. Mack.	J. E. Wamsley.
R. L. Brown.	H. Newell.
R. B. Crowell.	J. E. Wamsley.
A. D. Burns.	

MERCHANTS

Jacob Salz.	Clark Bros. ('76)
G. M. Walters.	Meyers Bros. ('80)
W. H. Mack. ('61)	Blacow & Weston.
Mr. Levy.	N. L. Babb.
Mr. Lang.	Ellis Bros. ('01)
J. Hirsch ('67).	E. A. Babb & Co. ('02)

BLACKSMITHS

Wm. Simms—pioneer.	
H. Crowell.	T. Tierney.

HOTELS

Union:	McCloud.
Sam Brown.	Mr. Foster.
W. Spellman.	W. Dugan.
Mr. Bemm.	

Irvington Hotel:

Mr. Kobault.	Mr. Kobault.
Brownell & Ainsworth.	Mr. Haight.
Mr. Wilson.	E. Sullivan.

NEWSPAPERS

Albert Lyser and W. W. Theobalds ('74)	
Mr. Calkins.	Miss Adeline Knapp.

E. B. Thompson.

DRUGGISTS

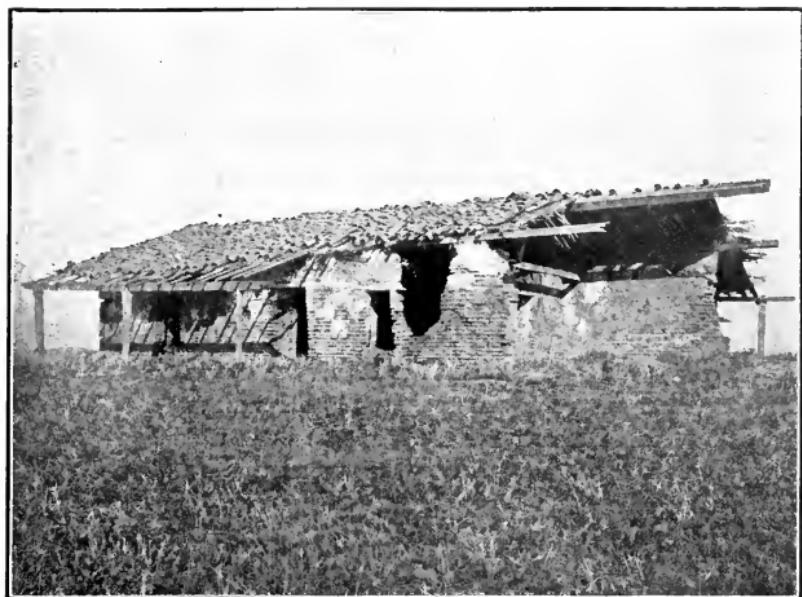
E. Covert.	Mr. Ford.
Mr. Seaburg.	L. Fitzell.
Mr. Rounds.	F. M. Carter.

DOCTORS

Dr. McKeane.	Dr. Laidlaw.
Dr. Guyberson.	Dr. Walshe.
Dr. Bishop.	Dr. Young.
Dr. Nestelle.	Dr. Nellis.

Warm Springs.

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Old Higuera Adobe, Warm Springs

THE town of Warm Springs is situated on the Agua Caliente Ranch, originally owned by Fulgencio and Valentine Higuera, who received a grant of it in 1836 from Nicolas Gutierrez. These, and neighboring rancheros, lived in idle ease upon their broad acres of pasture lands. They were the aristocrats, while below them was a class of peons, who squatted upon the land, cultivated their little patches of watermelons and frijoles, and for their meat levied upon the myriad herds of the landholders as they needed it, paying for it in work at the annual rodeo.

In those days the hills were covered with wild Spanish cattle, so that one's life was endangered if he ventured to roam them unmounted. It was the custom of the Spanish stock owners to get their cattle together once a year and brand them. Everyone attended and claimed his own stock, and after this was attended to, the remainder of the day and night was given up to feasting and dancing. Thus the rodeo was the great social event of the year. It took place at the Fulgencio Higuera ranch, near Willow Glen, where may still be seen the crumbling traces of the old adobes which were once resplendent with gay festivities. In 1863, the

last of the cattle were driven away and the rodeo was a thing of the past.

The Springs, from which the town derives its name, are situated about two miles east of the railroad, in the foothills, at an elevation of about 350 feet. Five of them are in one group, the sixth being a quarter of a mile distant. The flow is about 50,000 gallons daily, with a temperature of about 98 degrees. The water contains a solution of soda, borax and sulphur. Among its peculiarities one finds that iron does not rust in it; neither will it spoil if left for a year in an open glass. When boiled it deposits no sediment and requires but little soap when used for cleansing purposes.

Natives came from miles around to camp here to use the water for medicinal purposes. Spanish families sent their servants long distances with the ox-carts loaded with soiled clothing and household linen to be cleansed in the waters by the Indian laborers.

In 1850, Clement Columbet bought the Springs of Higuera, and from then until the time of the big earthquake the place was a gay and fashionable resort. What Del Monte is now for the people of California, the Warm Springs were then. Guests came and went, either in their private carriages or by stage. The resort lost none of its popularity until the earthquake of '68 damaged the buildings to such an extent that they could not be used.

In 1869, A. A. Cohen, of Alameda, purchased the property and built the new hotel which is now the men's quarters on the Josiah Stanford place. The building was never used as an hotel, as Senator Stanford bought the property the following year and planted vineyards and orchards. He died before his plans were all matured, and the place is now the beautiful country home of his nephew, Mr. Josiah Stanford.

In 1852, came the first great change in the primitive life of the people, when Jos Scott, Mr. Scribner and Mr. Hathaway bought 3,000 acres of the best of his land from Fulgencio Higuera, at three dollars an acre. This tract extended from the county line to where the Reynold's ranch now is, near Irvington. They removed all squatters and began farming the same year. And now the land, hitherto but tickled and scratched in small spots by the primitive wooden plows of the Spaniards, and responding in like manner, began to yield abundant crops under the energetic management of the Americans, and to reveal a value far beyond the conception of its original owners.

Mr. Scribner retained the southern portion through which flows Agua Frio Creek, but sold it to James Johnston about 1856. In 1858, Abram Harris, a lawyer who had been located in Newark, bought this property of Johnston as a speculation, and the name,

Harrisburg, was given to the settlement. When the Southern Pacific Railroad came through, the name Warm Springs was given to the station, and, to avoid confusion, in the early eighties the name was adopted by the post-office and town.

Later Harris sold his land, the largest purchaser being H. Curtner, who took possession in April, 1868, having been a resident of Washington Township since 1852.

Among those who settled here in the early fifties were Tom and Steve Millard, who farmed part of the Hathaway land, south of Agua Caliente Creek, which rises at the Springs and crosses the county road near the Warm Springs Hotel. Their grain was shipped to San Francisco from what is now the Warm Springs Landing. Here a small platform had been built and was often piled high with grain awaiting shipment.

In 1857 this platform gave way and the grain fell into the slough beneath. Fortunately it happened at low tide, and the men at work heading in the Millard field leaving their work were able to save a great part of it by working all night. Much of it was damaged, however, and some was lost. The same year the Baker Bros. established a landing there with John Porter as clerk. This landing flourished and is still prosperous. It is now a part of the Healey estate.

George Durkee, another pioneer, commenced farming in 1854 and settled at his present home in 1867. This ranch was formerly occupied by John Wilson, who came to Warm Springs in 1859 and was at one time Assemblyman. On removing from here Wilson lived in a small house which he built on what is now the Curtner property.

D. D. Henion, who is a comparatively late comer to Warm Springs, is, however, an old pioneer of Washington Township. He arrived in the valley in the fall of 1850, and located on the Chadbourne place between Centreville and Irvington. In 1853 he moved to Niles, where he lived first on the Clough place and later on the H. G. Ellsworth place until April 4, 1873, when he moved to Warm Springs.

Several of the pioneers have been so long removed from Warm Springs as to be most difficult to trace. Among these are Charles Clark and Mr. Nash.

Capt. Valpey, who left his home in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia in '49, in a sailing vessel rounded Cape Horn and arrived in California in 1850. In company with James Sinclair he owned a trading schooner which plied between San Francisco and the embarcadero at Union City for a few years. After various other ventures both finally settled in Warm Springs, Mr. Sinclair on the present Sinclair property and Capt. Valpey on the Craycroft place

To this place Capt. Valpey brought his family in 1860, and here they have always lived upon the main highway, witnessing many interesting events.

One event that is vividly remembered was a thirty-six mile horse race between Fulgencio Higuero and Salio, another Spaniard. The Spaniards from the vicinity crowded the roadside upon their mules and horses. Men, women and children, an excited and noisy throng, chattering and betting, awaited the passing of the heroes. Women even tore the jewelry from their persons to wager upon their favorites. It began to rain, but no one thought of turning homeward till the race had passed. At last the horses came into view, laboring and straining, with the mud flying from their hoofs. The men stationed at the roadside to whip them on, prepared to do their best, while the crowd waited in anxious expectation. As they drew near Salio's horse was seen to be badly blown and just opposite Capt. Valpey's place he fell, a victim to the Spanish love of sport.

Another illustration of the cruelty of Spanish sports occurred in 1856, when the daughter of Clemente Higuera was married and a three days' bull-fight was held. The bull was confined in a corral. During the fight an Indian, who had indulged too freely in the festivities of the occasion, wandered into the corral. His red blanket caught the attention of the enraged bull which charged fiercely and gored him severely before he could be rescued. The wounded man was removed from the place and laid upon the ground at a little distance while the sport continued.

In 1861, George W. Peacock erected a building on the site of the present Rural Hotel, which did duty as the only hotel and store in town, and in 1862, when Mr. Peacock received the first Postmaster's commission in Warm Springs, it served as Post office also. Later the property passed into the hands of Mr. Murray and became known as the Rural Hotel.

Early in 1863 a school was opened in a shed-roofed shanty, twelve by fourteen feet, on the Wilson place, with Miss Lizzie A. Valpey, now Mrs. Henry Shaw, as teacher. There were fifteen pupils in attendance. This school was conducted for three months in order to organize a district, which was done later in the same year, and a schoolhouse was commenced but not completed until 1864. In 1879 it was remodelled and continued in use for school purposes until 1889, when the present commodious school building was erected at a cost of \$6,000 on the property across the street from the old building. There are at present two teachers with an enrollment of 108 pupils. The old school building still stands as the main part of the Christian Church, that organization having bought it in 1889.

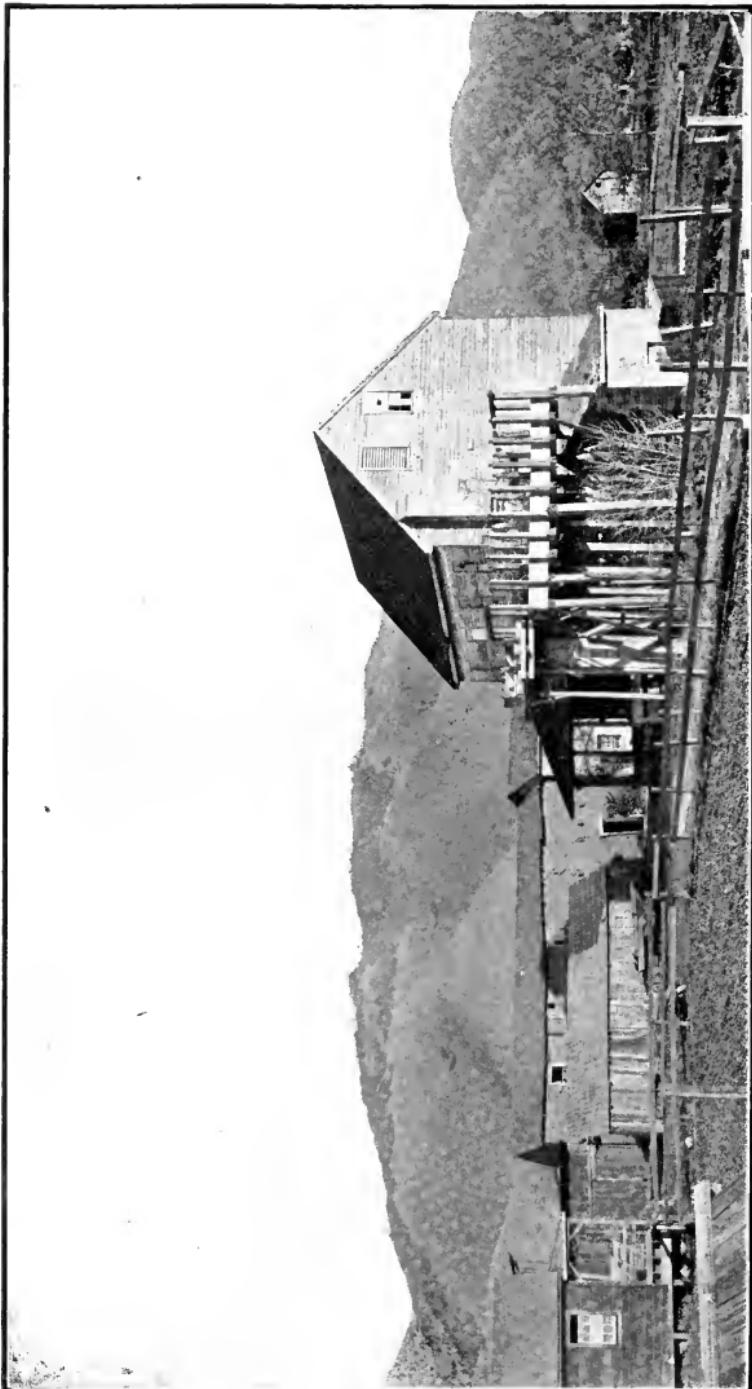
One of the prominent pioneers of Warm Springs is M. W. Dixon, who settled here about 1860 and was elected to the Assembly in 1874 and 1876. In 1868 he built the landing at the southern end of the settlement. In the earthquake of that year one of the warehouses at the landing collapsed and 5,000 sacks of grain sank in the slough. Later Capt. Valpey bought a piece of land adjoining Dixon's Landing, built a warehouse and established a second landing which is still a part of the Valpey estate. In the fall of 1894 a great wind storm blew the old original Dixon warehouse down, but it was immediately replaced and is now in good condition.

This landing was once the scene of an amusing incident. When E. L. Beard left Indiana for California a young lawyer named Lockwood decided to try his fortunes in the West also, but preferred coming by New Mexico rather than the route selected by Mr. Beard. Before departing, however, Mr. Lockwood presented Mr. Beard with a cornet, keeping a companion to it for himself, saying, "I understand California is a very wooded country and we may have some trouble finding each other; but take this horn with you and blow it occasionally. In this way we can locate each other."

Mr. Beard had been settled in his Mission home but a few months when a most bedraggled, mud-besmeared sailor made his appearance at his door, bearing the information that a crazy man was at the embarcadero tooting a horn to find Mr. Beard. Toot he would, but move he would not. Immediately Mr. Beard saddled his horse and hastened to the landing. The strains of a cornet were borne on the breeze that floated up from the marsh before the boat hove in sight. Lockwood and his parting gift had been forgotten, but came rushing back on the flood of memory as Mr. Beard recognized the attorney in the stern of the boat, alternately sounding his horn and awaiting an answering echo from his friend from Indiana.

The only traces of the primitive people of this district are the remains of an Indian village near the landing. Indians, once numerous here and about the Springs, and commonly employed by the farmers to bind their grain, are now a rare sight in Warm Springs. And, indeed, could they look again upon their old homes there would be little to recall the haunts of their life-time. The once unfenced pasture lands are now all cultivated, except some few spots among the hills which are too steep.

On the foothills, fine vegetables are raised in abundance. The leading industries on the lower lands are fruit, hay, grain raising and wine making. Many of the vineyards have suffered greatly from the ravages of the phylloxera, but are being rapidly replanted with resistant stock.



VAILLE'S MILLS.

Niles.

* * *

THE town of Niles was first known as Vallejo's Mills, taking its name from the flourishing mills built here in early days and spoken of more fully later on. When the Central Pacific Railroad first came through here in 1869 the Company named the station Niles, after Judge Niles, one of the railroad officials. This name was naturally adopted by the residents and the town has since been known as Niles. It is beautifully situated at the mouth of the Alameda Canyon and lies at the base of gracefully sloping hills.

In the 40's and early 50's, when the white men first came into the valley to settle, there were still many Indians living here; the largest rancheria in this neighborhood was on the banks of the lagoon on what is now known as the Tilden place.

To-day the wretched remnant of all these villages is gathered either at the Pleasanton village or in the little cluster of rude houses just below Niles bridge. Scattered here and there throughout this neighborhood are still found a few traces of this peculiar people. On the Meyer's place, back in the small canyon, are portions of a ditch and a walled spring of stone and cement made by the Indians. Their adobe huts were in the edge of the hills close to the mouth of the canyon. Here some fine metates, or grinding stones, have been found; one in the Meyer's garden is no less than three feet in circumference; and in the almond orchard south of the house was located a temescal, or sweat-house. Piles of stone on the hills back of the Meyer's and Mosher's ranches are the remains of the devil-worship practised by these Indians. Another very old Indian village was doubtless on the northeast corner of the Ellsworth place, for metates, stone tools and bones have been unearthed there.

It was in the year 1850 that Americans commenced coming with their families to make permanent homes in what is now the town of Niles. In September, Mr. Wm. Tyson and his young and timid wife came into the valley (having crossed the plains) and purchased from Mr. Fallon 200 acres of land, for which he paid the sum of \$2,000. Mr. Perry Morrison, a brother of Mrs. Tyson, obtained from the same party a similar tract. This included the land from the old Tyson homestead on the lagoon (which has been Mrs. Tyson's home for fifty-three years) to the foothills, taking in

the Thane, Donovan, Jos. Tyson and Chisholm homes, also those on the opposite side of the county road, between the railroad and the foothills.

In the early 50's, Capt. Wm. Sim owned the lands which later came into the hands of Mr. James Shinn, Mr. Barry, Mr. Champion and Judge Tilden. Mr. and Mrs. Loyd, in 1851, owned what is now known as the Nichols and Clough estates. This property passed into the hands of Mr. Stark, and in '53 was owned by D. D. Henion who sold to Wm. Moore, father of A. A. Moore, the Oakland lawyer. Mr. Clough finally bought the property, and it is now the home of his widow and daughter.

The land joining the Clough estate on the northeast was owned by Thomas Thompkins, who sold to Capt. C. C. Scott from whom, in 1861, Mr. Daniel Sanborn bought his present home. When Capt. Scott sold to Mr. Sanborn he moved to his beautiful ranch in the canyon, which he had called "Mizzen Top"; he afterward sold it to Mr. Edward Clark, whose widow and children still reside there.

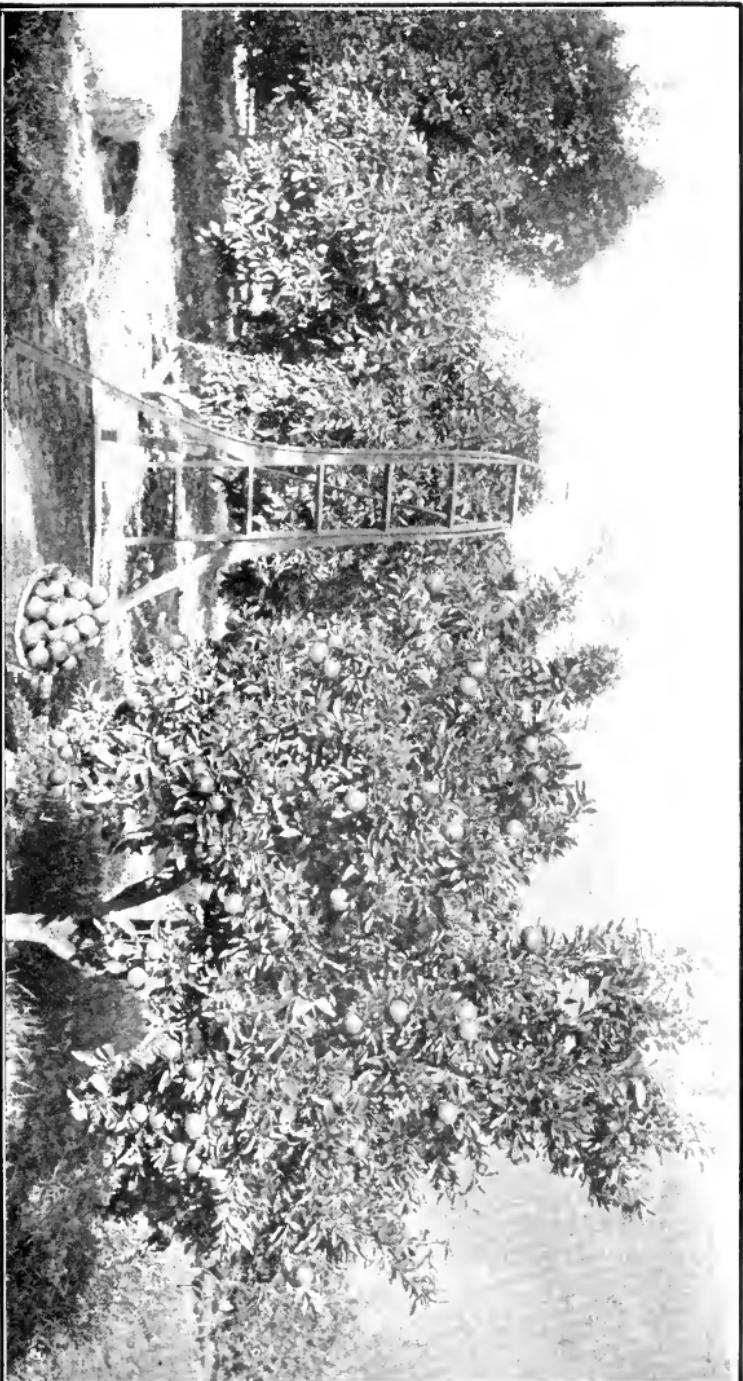
This same Capt. Scott was the victim of the first railroad accident in this vicinity, having his foot crushed so that amputation was necessary.

Mr. Barnes was a squatter on what is now the Ellsworth place; he sold to Mr. D. Sanborn and his brother, who in turn sold to D. D. Henion. Mr. Henion sold to Severance & Peet, who transferred it to the bank from which H. G. Ellsworth purchased it. At this time, the land joining the Tyson property on the southeast was owned by Mr. Naile, who built a fine adobe just back of the present Overacker home. In 1852, the first wedding was celebrated in this house; the parties were Miss Edna Stuart and Mr. Roy Stanley; the ceremony was performed by Mr. J. M. Horner, who frequently held Mormon services at the different ranches. The year before, Mr. Naile gave a large ball which was considered a most brilliant affair.

In 1856, Mr. Michael Overacker, with his brother Howard, bought this property, which is the present home of his widow and son. The Bonner and Hunt homes were a portion of this estate and were purchased in 1860; also the Mosher and Jones places belonged originally to the Overacker estate.

That part of the Vallejo grant which lay between the foothills and the north bank of the Alameda Creek came into the hands of Jonas Clark in the early 60's. At that time Mr. Clark was engaged in the furniture business in San Francisco and the land was rented to John Hanna; the valley land was soon sold to actual settlers.

In 1881 or 1882, E. B. Mastick, then acting as Mr. Clark's agent, received an order from him to survey and sell the entire hill prop-



ORANGE GROVE AT NILE'S.

erty. At the time the surveyors were running their lines, Mr. H. A. Mayhew, hearing the property was for sale, bought his present home. The remainder of the hill land was soon sold. Mr. Clark founded and endowed Clark University in Worcester, Mass.

The idea of the early settlers was to build comfortable but not pretentious houses; a fence usually surrounded the buildings as a protection from the numerous bands of wild horses and cattle that strayed from the hills, as well as from their own cattle.

In the garden plots were found Castilian roses, four-o'clocks, bachelor buttons, wall flowers, marigolds and madeira vines. There were several adobe buildings scattered about on the different ranches, some portions of which may still be found. At the Mill an adobe was used as a residence by a relative of J. J. Vallejo; another of the same family lived in one which stood in the canyon, and there is still another on the California Nursery property. These were all built by J. J. Vallejo between 1850 and 1853 for the use of his overseers and workmen.

In 1863, the last grizzly bear was killed in the grain fields, which have since been supplanted by the beautiful orchard owned by Mrs. Pickering.

The first Niles industry dates prior to American occupancy. In 1841, Don J. J. Vallejo, brother of General Vallejo, built an adobe flouring mill on the bank of the Alameda Creek; the grinding stones for this mill were brought from Spain; one of them was afterwards broken and the other now serves as a doorstep to the old adobe building. This mill in the early days of the country was quite famous and widely known. New stones were ordered from France in 1849, and in '53 or '54 (authorities vary) a new mill was built. The foundation stones were quarried from the hills in the canyon and were laid with cement, which was also dug from the hills near "the slide." The stone aqueduct was about two and a half feet wide and three feet deep and is now walled over by brick and forms part of the Spring Valley Water Co.'s pipe line.

After the new flour mill was built, the old mill was still used for grinding other grains. The old oak rafters were put together with wooden pegs, which may still be seen. Mr. Athy was the first miller to run the newly-built mill. As grain-raising declined and was superseded by other industries, the work at the mill grew less, and in December, 1884, the last flour was made by Wm. Gorges and the old mill was closed forever. A few days after the body of the miller was found in his room in the old mill and by his side an empty bottle labeled poison.

The chief industry up to the year 1855 was cattle raising, and thousands found pasturage through our beautiful valley and the

adjacent hills. These were the days of gorgeous Spanish trappings and when bull fights furnished the great amusements. The fights were held in the great corrals used for rodeos. One of these great stockades was situated in the level at the mouth of the little Mayhew canyon, while only a little way from it is the well known sulphur spring. The last rodeo was held in 1865.

As the settlers increased, the cattle industry was followed gradually by the raising of grain. In 1852, the first reaper was introduced by Wm. Tyson and Mr. Morrison, and that year the farmers sold wheat for from 11 to 15 cents a pound.

The first record we have of fruit-raising in Niles was in 1856, when Wm. Sim, who owned the Shinn place, had a few peach trees in bearing. This story is told of the first peaches that ripened: There was great demand for the fruit and it sold for \$1.00 a peach. Mr. Sim, fearing he might be robbed, set his man to watch the tree at night, but in the morning the man and peaches were gone.

The nursery business has been most prominent in the history of Niles, dating its inception back to 1868. In that year, Mr. B. D. T. Clough and his brother started an almond nursery on the present Clough estate, renting the adjoining lands, now the Shinn and Tyson places. Three years later Mr. James Shinn and Dr. J. W. Clark went into the business more extensively, growing ornamental and greenhouse plants as well as fruit and nut trees. They introduced many fruits, nuts and plants from Japan, as the Japanese plums and oranges, chestnuts, the irises, camphor tree and others of great interest. Shinn's Rareripe, an early variety of freestone peach, was originated and introduced by them. The Nichols orange cling peach, originated by Mr. Joseph Nichols, was also introduced by Mr. James Shinn. These have both proved of considerable value and are being planted quite extensively on this coast.

In 1884, the California Nursery Co. was organized, with John Rock* as president. The Company bought one square mile of land in Niles and rented many adjoining acres. At the present time it is the largest nursery on the Pacific Coast, sending its stock all over the world.

In 1888, Trumbull & Beebe, of San Francisco, bought the entire nursery stock of Mr. James Shinn and opened a packing yard near the depot, making this their distributing station.

The raising of early vegetables in our foothills for the San Francisco market commenced in the early 70's, this business being carried on almost entirely by the Portuguese. The first Italian

*John Rock, who became one of the foremost nurserymen of the state and who was connected with the California Nursery Company for twenty years, died August 8, 1904.

vegetable garden was started in 1876 by Mr. Manuel Dominici, who with his wife and two small sons is still in the business. There are three or four other Italian vegetable gardens, each sending its wagons out every morning laden with fresh vegetables to make the rounds of the township.

The first store for general merchandise was kept by Mr. Victor Nuttman and Mr. Lowell; succeeding them were Thomas Scott and Wm. Insell. In 1858, Mr. Scott brought to Niles its first piano, manufactured by Miller & Curtis.

Miss Incarnacion Vallejo, daughter of J. J. Vallejo, was the first teacher of music, Mr. Scott's daughters being among her first pupils. In the winter of 1862 and 1863, Mr. Scott was sent to the Legislature as the first representative from this section. In 1898, Mr. James Clark represented the same section as Assemblyman.

The birth of Wm. Henry Tyson, on November 2, 1850, is the first record of a white child born in Niles.

In 1869, Lew McDole came to Niles and established himself as a cobbler, in the building he now occupies. He declares that more people in this township owe their *soles* to him than will now admit it. Alex. Scott established a warehouse and lumber yard in the early 70's and later sold the business to Mortimer & Wamsley.

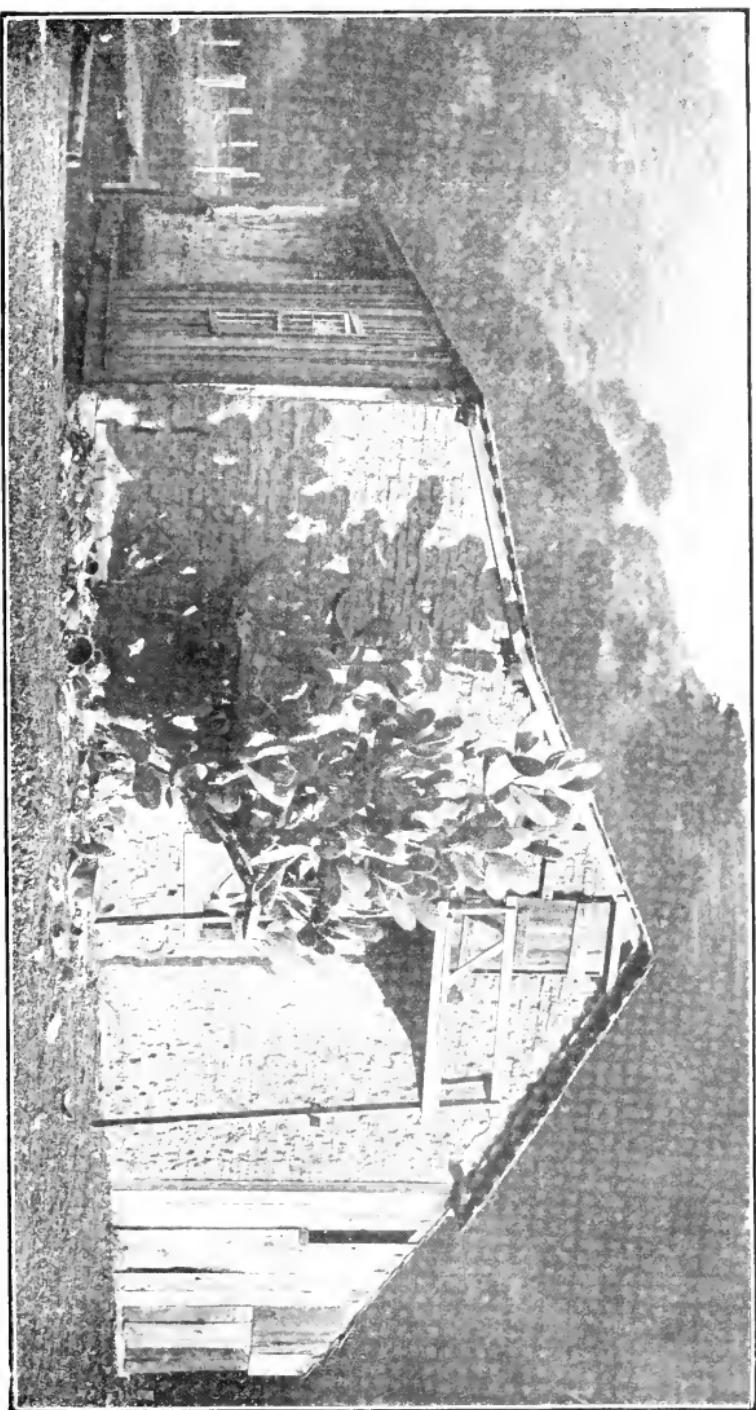
The Farwell stone quarry was opened in 1879 and operated quite extensively for several years. The stone is light brown and gray, does not take a polish, but stands all kinds of weather. The Unitarian Church, of Oakland, and the Rosenthal Building, of San Francisco, are made of this stone. The property is now in litigation, consequently the quarry is not worked.

Niles claims the first gravel pit utilized in the State, situated in the creek bottom, on the Shinn property. It is a crop that never fails, as the rains of each winter replace what has been excavated during the season. In building the new amphitheatre on the State University grounds, in Berkeley, one order was for seventy-five carloads of this gravel.

In the spring of 1894 the Niles Co-Operative Fruit Association was organized, with Judge Tilden as president; it was run successfully for several years. A few years later Edward A. Ellsworth started a dryer in the home orchard, and recently he has bought the entire plant of the Co-Operative Association and handles a large portion of the fruit dried in this vicinity.

Niles has three well-conducted general merchandise stores; a drug store; a meat market, with necessary wagon route, and two blacksmith and wagon shops.

In May, 1897, the first issue of the Niles Herald appeared, with



OLD ADORÉ ALAMEDA CANYON.

Mr. F. G. Vivian as editor. The following year the Waters Bros. (A. R. and H. J.) bought the paper and edited it until February, 1904, when it was sold to F. E. Adams, of Pleasanton, who consolidated it with the Washington Press, E. B. Thompson, editor.

The flood of '61 and '62 is well remembered by the old residents. The rains commenced the last of December and continued for six weeks, with heavy falls of snow in the hills. The creek was booming and continued to rise rapidly. In February the people became so anxious that they considered it necessary for the safety of the residents to set a watch at night. An alarm came early in the morning and people awoke to find themselves surrounded by water as if in the middle of a lake. What few cellars there were had filled with water, which gradually came up over the door sills, and people took to the second stories, tearing up carpets and moving up what furniture they could. One family, named Phelps, left their house and took refuge on an island and soon saw their house with all their belongings swept down the stream. A Mr. Smith removed his family to a place of safety only the day before, but stayed himself in the house. Before morning he was obliged by the rising waters to leave the house; he climbed a tree and lighted a lantern, and when his wife saw the light she said he was all right, he had "gone to roost."

The roar of the waters as they came rushing down the canyon was deafening and could be heard for miles as the flood swept on through the valley on its errand of destruction, washing away houses, fences, trees and everything in its path. The water stood three and four feet deep on the lower parts of the Ellsworth, Sanborn, Clough and Nichols places. As far as the eye could see, "water, water everywhere." A remarkable feature of this severe flood was that there was no loss of life.

The first hotel in Niles was located on the site now occupied by the Congregational parsonage and was run by a man named Sam Bonner.

L. M. Hinckley had a blacksmith shop on the Mayhew place. Mr. Robert Beeching also had a blacksmith shop in the north corner of the property now owned by Ed. A. Ellsworth.

In 1869, the first express office was established in the old Scott store and Wm. Snyder was appointed agent, at a salary of \$25.00 per month. After two years the express office was moved to the railway depot.

The first through railway train to Oakland was on November 8, 1869. The year before this, however, the trains came down through the canyon and ran to San Jose.

In 1872, the Supervisors succeeded in getting an Act passed by the legislature to bridge Alameda Creek at Niles. The bridge was

built and accepted in October of the same year. The cost was \$12,000; county bonds being secured through the personal efforts of Mr. H. Overacker, who was supervisor at that time from this district.

The first Sunday School was held during the summer of 1873 in the wareroom of the old mill, with Mrs. Sarah E. King as superintendent, assisted by Mesdames Snyder, Woodward, Clough, Henion and Plummer.

In November, 1873, the first post office was opened in Niles, with Wm. Snyder as postmaster; there were two mails a day and the salary was \$12.00 per year.

In 1890, with a change of administration, W. T. Dickey was appointed postmaster and the office was moved to his store near the depot. J. E. Briscoe succeeded Mr. Dickey, and in '98 Mr. Snyder again received the appointment and has held the office up to the present time. From two mails a day the office has increased to eleven, and is now a money order office. Rural free delivery was established early in 1904.

In 1852, Mr. Harvey Green taught school for a few months in the adobe on the Overacker place, and the same year Miss Sarah Scott taught a private school for a short time in her father's house. After this the nearest school was at Centreville, which for years the children were obliged to attend. The need of a public school in Niles was greatly felt, therefore, people clubbed together and gave a great ball in the old mill's warehouse, and all worked to make it a success. They realized from the ball \$320.00; the school house was built and the balance needed was raised by subscription. In October, 1875, the first public school opened with Miss Watkins as teacher. Mr. B. D. T. Clough, M. J. Overacker and Wm. Snyder acting as trustees; the first two held office until removed by death. Mr. Snyder is still a trustee, having been a member of the board since the school district was formed. In 1889, it was found that a new school house was necessary, so the present building was erected, and school opened in October of the same year in the new building. Mrs. J. E. Thane, Mr. Snyder and H. A. Mayhew constituted the Board of Trustees. The Hon. Eli Dennison presented the school with a flag, which is the largest school flag in the county. This flag has the distinction and the honor of having been unfurled at two of the Presidential nominating conventions held at Chicago.

The old school building was sold to the Congregational Society, and was moved and remodeled into a very pretty little church; The railway company kindly donated the lot where the church now stands. Regular church services commenced on June 16, 1889, with Mr. Frederic Maar as pastor. The first church wedding was

solemnized on February 4, 1891, when the pastor, Mr. Frederic Maar, was married to Miss May Tyler; Rev. J. K. McLean, of Oakland, officiating.

The Roman Catholic Church was established January 25, 1892; and the Episcopal Church the same year.

The first May Day picnic was held in '54, on Ellsworth's Island, then owned by Daniel and Osmond Sanborn and planted to grain; they cut a few acres and, after the picnic, regretted that the entire field had not been cut. Invitations were sent out to everybody in the township. It is estimated that there were present fifty women, one hundred and fifty men and about fifty boys and girls. The Rev. Mr. Brier and Noble Hamilton, afterwards made judge, were the speakers of the day. These picnics sometimes lasted for several days and preparations were commenced months before for these great social events. A May Queen was always chosen. They were continued until the floods of 1861 and 1862; but after that they were usually held at Dry Creek.

The first public picnic grounds in Niles canyon were conducted by John Meyer.

In March, 1891, L. H. Cutler opened the first drug store. Dr. Ray was the first resident physician.

The first hall was built and owned by Solomon Easterday and was opened March, 1888.

About the year 1890, a Parmelee Circulating Library, of 145 volumes, was selected, bought, by the citizens of Niles, and placed in Mr. Dickey's store. In 1895, these books were moved to the "Open Door," reading room which was then under the management of the Christian Endeavor Society. From time to time additions were made to the original library until there were 500 volumes, and in January, 1900, the Niles Free Library was incorporated. A lot was purchased and the railroad company presented the corporation with a building.

On March 17, 1893, Niles Lodge of Odd Fellows was organized. On November 15 of the same year the Court of Foresters of America was organized.

In 1894 the Niles Band came into existence, numbering twelve members. They practiced faithfully for some months and appeared in public on several occasions, but on account of the removal of several of the members the interest died out and the organization ceased.

In 1896, the Athletic Club was organized. Considerable work and some little expense was put into a bicycle track, which was never used.

On January 6, 1897, the Social Assembly of the United Artisans was organized. The Niles Improvement Club was formed in

April, 1898, with Mr. Jos. Shinn as president. On March 20, 1900, the Niles Camp of Modern Woodmen of America was organized.

On March 16, 1901, the Niles Encampment of I. O. O. F. was organized.

In June, 1901, the Suburban Electric Company brought their lines through Niles.

There are living in our midst two ladies who have the distinction of having "crossed the plains," Mrs. Emmeline Tyson and Mrs. Kate Overacker.

There are a few Niles people of whom the citizens should be justly proud as having acquired prominence in different circles: Dr. Millicent Shinn and Mr. Charles Shinn, in the literary world; Miss Ida Curtis, in the ministry; Miss Sybil Easterday, in sculpture; Miss Estelle Heartt, in vocal music.





MASONIC HOME AT DECOTO.

Decoto, Town and District.



HIS part of the township was originally a portion of the Vallejo grant and was later owned by J. G. Clark.

Evidences of residence by the Indians have been found on the farms around by J. C. Whipple and on the I. B. Haines estate. Mortars and human bones having been exhumed in several places on their lands.

A squatter known by the name of "Euchre John," who lived on the land now owned by Mr. Reese, planted the first fruit trees in the district, which bore fruit in 1862.

The first storehouse was built in 1850 by Vallejo. It stood on the right bank of Segunda Creek, commonly called Dry Creek, on the land owned in 1853 by Frank Frietas and was not entirely destroyed until a few years since.

Previous to July 2, 1868, the Decoto School District was a part of the Alvarado, Alviso and Centreville districts. At that time this district was formed and called Cosmopolitan School District. The first school house was built on land donated for school purposes by J. G. Clark, who then owned the land. The buildings and furnishings when ready for use had cost the district \$1,307.92, all of which was raised by subscription. The first term of the school was taught by J. T. James, in 1869. The total number of pupils enrolled was twenty, with an average daily attendance of seventeen. The district has been taken from several times till now the area is not more than half what it was originally. Parts of the Niles and Valle Vista districts having been formed by the divisions. The present enrollment of pupils is 168, with a good daily attendance; four teachers are employed. A new schoolhouse was erected in 1883 within the town limits. The old building was sold and is now a part of the residence of H. May. The land was returned to the present owners of the Clark estate.

The Dry Creek picnic grounds, so well known to all old residents of the township, are in this district. The grounds were first used as a pleasure resort in 1854 or 1855. The season usually opened on the 26th of April, the Odd Fellows having charge of the festivities. May-day was considered the great holiday and was looked forward to with the liveliest pleasure from one season to another, and elaborate preparations were made in the way of dress and entertainment. Refreshments were planned many weeks in advance.



A Glimpse of Dry Creek Picnic Grounds

As the years advanced and the county became more thickly settled, one day was not enough to satisfy the ardor of the pleasure seekers, and for several years the festivities of the May season were kept up for three days. A good floor was laid and excellent music was in attendance, dancing being the principal amusement.

During the early '70's pleasure seekers came from the city to enjoy the day, but this continued only for a few years, the distance from the station being too great for the convenience of pedestrians.

For more than twelve years the grounds have not been used as a public pleasure resort.

During the years 1851-53, about 300 acres of land on the Alameda Creek was farmed by Don J. J. de Vallejo and Mr. James Hawley (who is now living in the Alviso district). This tract was called the Bell Ranch, from the fact that a large bell, given by J. J. Vallejo, was hung by Mr. Hawley in 1852 in a sycamore tree which stood on the bank of the creek. The original tree was washed away by the floods; but another has grown in the same place. Later the bell was hung on a frame erected for it nearer the house and it remained there for many years. It was used as a signal for calling the laborers to and from their work. It is reported

on pretty good authority that the bell was one of the five Mission church bells, and that some time in the late '60's it was returned to its place in the old church.

The ranch house, which is still standing and used as a residence, was built in 1852. The bridge which now spans the Alameda Creek is called the "Bell Ranch Bridge," from the name given the ranch.

In 1870, 284 acres of land were purchased from the three Decoto brothers by the railroad company and the Decoto Land Company was formed; the town was surveyed and called Decoto. Streets were laid out, named, and during the winter of 1870 and 1871, 27,000 trees of various kinds were set out, eucalyptus being the most prominent. Several large warehouses have been built in which great quantities of grain and hay are stored every year and from thence shipped to the markets. During the year 1902, 9187 tons of freight were shipped from the Decoto Station, for which the railroad company received as freight charges, \$8682.99.

Molders' sand is found on the land owned by E. A. Bush, and many carloads are shipped annually to the Union Iron Works in San Francisco.

In 1873, quite a large tract of land was set out in hops on the property owned by J. B. Shirk. For several years the crops were quite profitable; but about 1885 the yield began to decrease, and a few years later this industry was given up entirely.

Fruits, grain, and sugar-beets are successfully raised in the valley, while the hill land produces good crops of grapes and is famed for the production of early vegetables for home and eastern markets.

There are but three houses of the early days remaining in the district, all of them still serving as residences.

Mr. Gresel, who is a successful farmer in this district, worked for Mr. James Hawley on the Bell Ranch as early as 1851, and has made his home in the vicinity since that time.

Decoto was separated from Alvarado as a voting precinct in 1896. The number of registered voters in 1902 was 116; therefore the population of the district is about 580.

In 1873, the Cypress Cemetery Association was formed with the following named trustees: J. C. Whipple, F. B. Granger, Sr., E. Dyer, John Hall, Wm. Hayes and J. M. Ingalls, all of whom, except the last named, were pioneers. The first officers were: Wm. Hayes, Pres.; J. C. Whipple, Vice-Pres.; J. M. Ingalls, Sec. and Treas. Ten acres of land were purchased from Sanford Taylor. The tract was fenced and soon after Mr. Whipple, at his own expense, set cypress trees on three sides of the grounds, many of which are still standing.

In 1874 or 1875, W. M. Moserve organized the first Sabbath School; Miss Alvena Meyer (now Mrs. C. C. Crane) was chosen superintendent. The school was presented with a small library, some bibles and song books by one of the Presbyterian churches of Oakland. This school was abandoned after a time and it was not till after the new public school house was built that another Sunday school, with Alvina Decoto in charge, was regularly organized by Rev. Mr. Wirt in the early 80's. From this grew the organization of the Congregational Church on December 9, 1893, through the efforts of Rev. F. H. Maar; and through his efforts also the Christian Endeavor societies of the State raised the funds for erecting a neat building on a lot loaned for church purposes. This, the only "Christian Endeavor Church" in the state, was dedicated September 23, 1898.

The corner stone of the Masonic Home was laid October 14, 1896. The main building was dedicated October 12, 1898, and opened to inmates March 1, 1899. The property consists of 267.46 acres of land, all under cultivation. The principal building is an imposing brick structure (the bricks being made on the grounds as needed), four stories in height, situated on an eminence commanding a magnificent view of the southern end of Alameda County of the Bay and of the mountains of the Coast range both on the east and west. At the present time there are more than 125 inmates, and forty children are attending the grammar and high schools.

The Home is supported by a per capita tax of \$1.00 paid each year by the subordinate lodges of the State to the Grand Lodge.

Seminoff Temple, the corner stone of which was laid April 22, 1903, is the gift of S. Seminoff, of San Francisco, and is a very handsome and commodious building, with lodge rooms, library and offices, which are to be devoted to the uses of those Free Masons who are inmates of the Home.

A new enterprise on rather a large scale has lately been launched just west of the town of Decoto. Here a model dairy is being conducted by D. Jackson and F. B. Granger, two well known business men of Alvarado. The business is being conducted under the name of the Jackson-Granger Dairy Co.

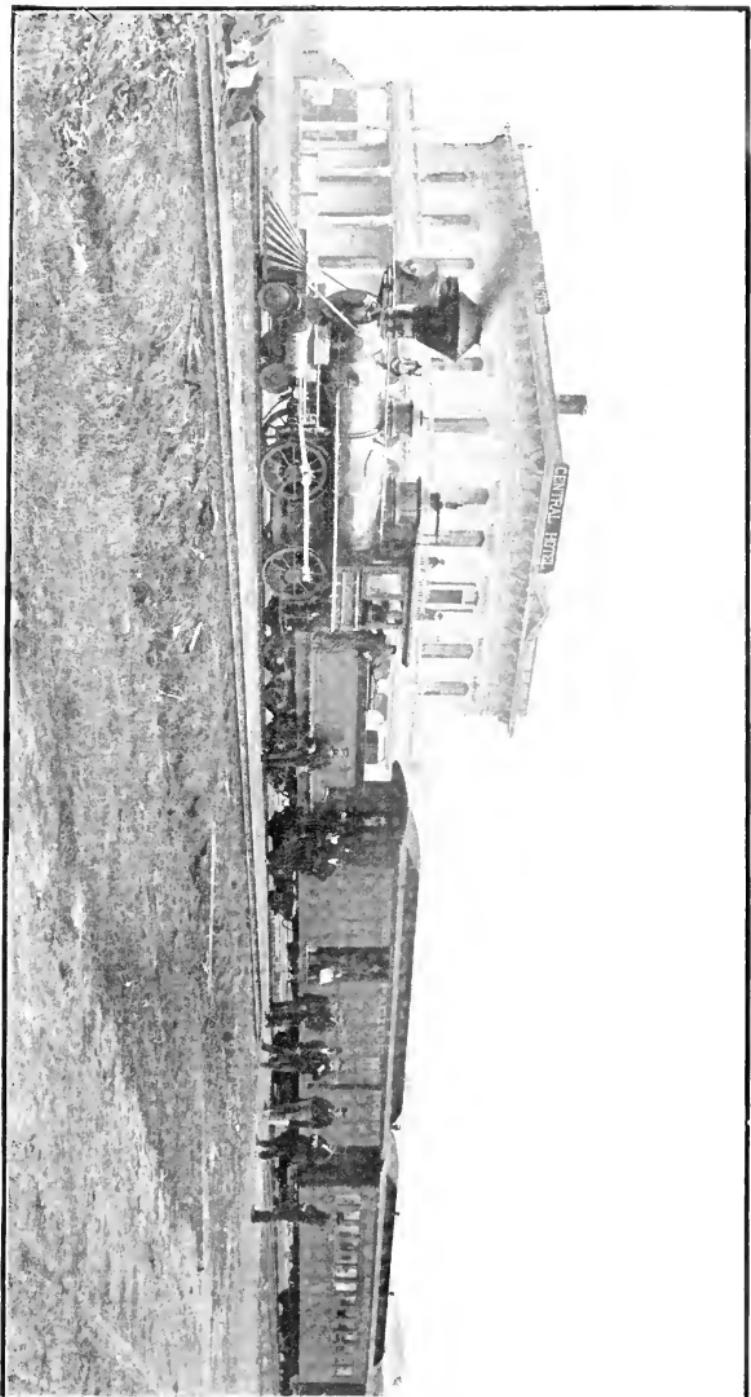
The ranch of 340 acres has been fenced and cross fenced, allowing of the pasturing of their 240 milch cows and the raising of hay. Fourteen men are employed at the dairy, each having his special work to do.

The buildings, which are very large, contain eight "strings" of thirty-three cows each and are models of neatness, as one of the main rules is "Keep the place clean to the utmost degree." The buildings are all lighted by electricity, as are the wash-room, grist mill, and all out buildings.

The full output of this model dairy is sent to Oakland, the milk bringing the highest price paid in that market.

Several new improvements are about to be commenced, and when completed will make this plant equal to any in the State.

FIRST RAILROAD TRAIN IN NEWARK



Newark.

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THE town of Newark is situated near the northern border of the Rancho Mission, San Jose, the branch of the Alameda Creek (called by the Spaniards the Big Ditch), on the Munyan place, at present the property of Mr. F. Brown, being the boundary.

On the other side of the creek, now owned by Mr. Andrew Ross, stood the homestead of Don Augustine Alviso, owner of the Rancho Potrero de Los Cerritos (pasture of the low hills).

In 1852 the valley was crowded with herds of wild cattle in charge of Indian vaqueros. Portions of the ranchos were enclosed with willow and raw-hide fencing, and some wheat, barley, and oats were grown. There were usually a few fruit trees near the houses. Each rancho had a great many Indian and half breed retainers who did the work and for whom a steer was killed every few days.

From 1850 on, numerous Americans arrived and obtained possession of land in various ways, by squatting and by purchase. Messrs. E. Lyman Beard and John M. Horner bought a large part of the Mission tract. Titles were unsettled until 1866, when the government at Washington granted a patent on payment of \$1.25 per acre by each holder. Mr. Beard was instrumental in getting the farmers to assess themselves sixty cents per acre and to send Judge A. M. Crane on to Washington to have the matter settled. To adjust the affair an Act of Congress was necessary and as the hour for the adjournment of the House approached, on the night of March 3, 1866, two bills of great moment to the settlers of this valley remained to be disposed of. One was to confirm the owners in their holdings, and the other gave to the Western Pacific Railway Company every alternate section within twenty miles of its road from San Jose to Sacramento.

Through the efforts of Senator John Conners, of California, the bill giving the land to those in possession was passed first, thus saving endless litigation with the railroad, and perhaps a tragedy like that of Mussel Slough, of which Mr. Norris wrote in the "Octopus."

The first settlers of what is now the town of Newark were two farmers, named Clarke and Thomas, who took possession of 160 acres, fenced it and built a house where the ranch-house of the Fair property stands. Lumber for fencing was very scarce and

expensive, so they dug a ditch, and throwing up the earth, built the fence on the top of the embankment thus made. Traces of this ditch still remain. The next owner was Capt. Joseph Mayhew, who built the present house, one of the finest in the county at that time, and who had a stock-ranch of more than a thousand acres. He was a most enterprising, popular man, who after a time moved to San Leandro and was elected Sheriff of the County in 1861 and 1863. A. B. Forbes, of San Francisco, was the next owner of the place; he spent many thousands in improving it, but, after a few years, sold to Perrin Bros., who established the Green Point Dairy and laid out a town which they called Newark; half way between the present town and the bay. They advertised extensively, built a road across the marsh at great expense and chartered a steamer to bring excursionists from San Francisco to Alviso Slough. The town project was not a success, although they sold some lots, and in 1876 they disposed of their holdings to the Pacific Land Improvement Co who carried on the dairy business for a time. On coming into possession the Company, consisting of Flood & O'Brien, A. E. Davis and others, built a railroad to Dumbarton Point, connecting there with the steamer "Newark" for San Francisco. San Jose was the terminus of the road. The line to Dumbarton Point was abandoned when the Company acquired the right of way through Alameda. In March, 1878, trains ran from Alameda to Los Gatos, and on May 15, 1880, the first passenger train for Santa Cruz went over the road. On May 23d there was an excursion on the new road, flat-cars being crowded with people, and when rounding a curve overlooking the powder mill in the Santa Cruz mountains one was overturned and seventeen persons killed. On the completion of the road the round-house and repair shops were located here, and Carter Bros.' car shops gave employment to many. The Company built houses for its employees and two stores were opened, one by Mr. Albert Falk and one by Mr. George Thom. A post office was established, Mr. Martin Carter being the first postmaster, who soon resigned in favor of Mr. Thom. For several years before this the nearest postoffice was at Centreville. In 1852, settlers of this valley had to go to San Jose for the monthly mail, letter postage being thirty cents. After a time there was a semi-monthly mail and an office was established at Mission San Jose, then one at Alvarado and later at Centreville. We have had rural delivery in this neighborhood since September, 1903.

The first salt works in this vicinity were owned by Isaac Long, who came here from Philadelphia in 1852. He and his brother had the largest chicken ranch in the State on what is now called the Thompson place. They made a fortune in the business, eggs

selling for \$2.00 per dozen and young chickens for \$25.00 per doz. Mr. Long did not make a success of the salt business and sold to Mr. J. A. Plummer, who in 1863 introduced modern methods in its manufacture. Up to this time the mode of making salt had been extremely primitive and the product so impregnated with bromines as to be unsafe for family use. In 1864, the first salt from wooden floors was shipped by Mr. Plummer to San Francisco and the quality of the product won immediate recognition. Mr. C. A. Plummer still carries on an extensive business at the Crystal Salt Works, near Newark, with a branch at Alvarado.

Another industry at Newark is the James Graham Manufacturing Co., whose iron foundry was established in 1882 with but two men employed. There are now 87 men on the pay-roll, who turn out every working day forty-five ranges, and their buildings cover an acre of ground. There is a smaller foundry at Newark under the management of the Dunn Bros, and it will be seen that the money received monthly for wages in the town amounts to a large sum.

The school house and Roman Catholic church were built in 1879, and the Presbyterian church was dedicated on September 10, 1895.

When the railroad was completed a park was laid out with a pavilion and dancing-floor for picnics, but after a time this was abandoned.

Two hotels were built, one by the railway company and one by Mr. John Dugan, who also conducted a coursing park.

In 1876, the property of the railway company was bought by Senator Fair and others; the Pacific Land Improvement Company was incorporated and the present town of Newark laid out. The Fair estate has a large property in the neighborhood.

On the refusal of the city of Oakland to allow the railway the right of way through its streets, Senator Fair sold to the Southern Pacific. This was July 1, 1887. But for this sale the Narrow Gauge, as it is called, might be part of another transcontinental road.

In "Five Years Before the Mast," Richard Henry Dana, who visited the coast in 1835, speaks of coming up the Bay of San Francisco to the embarcaderos of the Missions for hides and tallow. There is no doubt that he came to what was afterwards known as Beard's, now Jarvis' Landing, as the flocks and herds of the Mission San Jose were among the largest in California. Mr. Dana also speaks of Russian vessels which came from Fort Ross and from Alaska to trade with the Missions for grain, hides and tallow.

At the beginning of 1853, Beard's Landing was owned by Capt. Oscar Pease, and the rate of shipping from that point to San Fran-

COYOTE HILLS (LOS CERRITOS), NEW MEXICO



cisco was \$5.00 per ton. Capt. Pease was a son of Attorney Pease who, with his family, lived in Centreville for a time and afterwards returned to his home in Michigan. A few years ago Capt. Pease visited Newark and was astonished at the changes he saw. He built the first house at Jarvis' Landing, but his name, like those of many of the early settlers, has almost passed into oblivion.

Capt. Pease sold the Landing to Capt. Joseph Mayhew who sold it to his uncle, Capt. Jonathan Mayhew, who established the lumber yards about 1855. He disposed of his holdings to his nephew, Wm. Butler, who in 1864 sold to Mr. George Tait, of San Francisco. In 1865, the property was bought by Jarvis and Company, the firm consisting of Howard and F. C. Jarvis and two brothers named Ray, who soon retired.

The Landing was called Beard's Landing because the late E. L. Beard was the largest farmer in the neighborhood shipping from this point. Mr. John M. Horner shipped from Union City. A part of the land called Beard's Landing was on the Mission tract and part on the Alviso property, the two connected by a plank walk for many years. About 1853, a man had a contract for several thousand tons of cobble stones for the San Francisco streets, they were hauled to this Landing and then condemned as unsuitable. After some years these stones were thrown into the slough which divided the two tracts, and thus a permanent road was made which is still of private ownership. Mr. Tait, one of the owners of the Landing, came into the country for his health from San Francisco, where he had been Superintendent of Schools when the Lincoln school was built in that city. He was one of the first school trustees in this neighborhood and named Lincoln district after the President, of whom he was a great admirer although a Virginian educated at William and Mary College, and whose family had all been on the Southern side during the Civil War.

Mr. Tait took his three sons to Europe where they were educated. Dr. Dudley Tait, connected with the French Hospital in San Francisco, is one of the sons.

The first trustees of Lincoln School District in this township were: George W. Tait, who died in 1888; Emory Munyan, who died in 1899; and Abijah Baker, who died in 1903. Mr. Baker gave the lot on which the school house stands.

A small vessel of about thirty tons was built at the Landing in 1865 by Barney Mullen and Edwood Ross, who intended to make a new landing back of the hills and nearer the bay. After spending considerable money in making a road across the marsh and a cut through the hills the project was abandoned for want of funds and the vessel, named the "Valentine Alviso," was sold to the Messrs. Jarvis.

In 1876, Jarvis & Co. built at the Landing a large schooner called "The '76," and in 1882 Mr. John Lowrie built the steamer "Lady Anne," for the Alaska river trade. It was taken north on the deck of a schooner named the "Alaska," and used to bring ore from the mines to tide-water. Mr. Lowrie and all on board were lost in the "Alaska" on the return trip with a load of silver and lead ore from his mine. Samuel Marston and Charles Babb were lost at the same time, October, 1883.

Dumbarton Point is destined to be on the line of a railroad into San Francisco; the bay at that place is only three-fourths of a mile in width and it can be bridged without difficulty. It is the only place on the bay between Oakland and San Jose where the depth of water will permit the approach of large vessels.

The marshes about the bay afford good duck-hunting and many gun clubs have preserves in this neighborhood. Mr. F. M. Smith, of borax fame, has rented the shooting privilege of the Brigg's ranch for fifteen years and has built a commodious shooting-box.

Some years ago Eastern oysters were planted in the bay on the San Mateo shore where an extensive industry is carried on. The oysters in some cases have drifted to the Alameda side and occasionally the hunter finds a colony of them.

The death of Mr. Emory Munyan, which occurred June 9, 1899, was a great loss to the community. He was a generous, kindly man of wonderful memory and intelligence and had a vast store of information concerning the early days of the country. He was a good linguist, and his services had often been employed by the Spaniards in translating important documents, for which he would never take compensation. He was trustee of Lincoln school from its organization till his death, and he gave to it a valuable collection of mineral and Indian relics. He had a fine orchard and every Friday, during the season, the school children received a basket of fruit from his hands. Mr. Munyan came to California from Connecticut, in 1852; he never married, but of him it may be written "that he loved his fellow men."

From the Munyan place to the bay there is an extensive Indian mound, the site of a populous village many hundreds of years ago. They buried their dead close to their houses, which were built of willow bound together with twigs, plastered with mud, and the roof covered with tules. The farmers of this locality still turn up with the plow human bones, shells, fishing implements, stone mortars and pestles, etc. They seem to have been a peaceful people of a low order of intelligence, living on fish and acorns.

When the railroad was built through the Wm. Haley place seven layers of bodies were unearthed. There are other mounds in the vicinity, but this was the largest. An old Indian who lived

here in 1852, and who declared that he was then 100 years old, said that he was born on this mound and that he had seen all the adjoining ranches covered with driftwood brought down by the freshets. The truth of this is proved by the logs and roots still brought to light in the course of excavations here. He also told of years of drought and floods and earthquakes, the greatest of which occurred about 1768, or one hundred years before the "great" earthquake of California.

There is no doubt that this valley was once an arm of the bay and has been filled up by erosion from the hills. When boring for water, sea sand and shells are found at a depth of seventy-five feet or more, and, near Irvington, bones of mastodons have been found at a great depth. The process of filling up is still going on, for near Alvarado within living memory three fences, one above another, have been covered with soil brought from the hills by the rains, and in some places the marsh has been transformed into fertile soil.

About '51 or '52, the Portuguese began to settle in this neighborhood; they were sailors from the Azores who sent for their kindred; they are an industrious race and have almost taken possession of this fair valley. The season of '50-'51 was a dry year, when only about four inches of rain fell. In that year Mr. Beard raised a crop of vegetables on what is now the Haley place; these are some of the prices he received: potatoes, 12 and 15 cents per lb., cabbages (some of which weighed 50 lbs.) and onions (weighing three or four pounds.) 15 and 20 cents per lb. Mr. Beard told the present owner of this place that in that year he made \$80,000 from fifty acres—which sounds like a California story, but it is true. The next year everybody raised potatoes (there were forty inches of rain), thousands of tons rotted on the ground and there were many bankrupts.

Throughout the valley remains of iron fencing may still be seen, made of panels about eight feet long; used in England for park fencing. An English ship loaded with it reached San Francisco, leaking badly, her cargo was sold at auction and bought by Mr. Horner for a song. During the Civil War when it was impossible to obtain iron most of this fence was used by the blacksmiths and sold for a large price.

The pioneers who survive, and they are not many, have seen great changes. Mr. C. S. Haley has, perhaps, the unusual distinction in California of having lived on one place for fifty years. Early writers on California speak of the extravagance of the Spanish Californians. Whatever the Yankee trader offered for sale they bought, and, when pay-day came, settled the account with a piece of land. When Don Alviso sold the last of his possessions and went to end his days with his son in Livermore, there were but seventy acres left of his once magnificent property of nearly eleven thousand acres, extending from Newark to Alvarado and bounded by the hills and the bay.



Rosedale Silver Maples

NAMES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PIONEER SOCIETY.

Eligibility to membership in this society demanded settlement in the State of California prior to March 26, 1853, and a residence in the township at the time of organization. Sons of pioneers twenty-one years of age were also eligible. (Deceased marked *)

- *Caleb Scott
- *David Coleman Bane
- *Rufus Denmark
- *George Massy Walters
- *Chas. Kelsey
- *Wm. Alexander More
Thos. W. Millard
- *Daniel Haller
John J. Riser
John Miers Horner
- *George Forbes
- *John McBurnie
- *George Simpson
- *Farley Benjamin Granger
- *John Buchanan
Chas. Albert Plummer
- *Samuel Ingersol Marston
- *Jared Tuttle Walker
- *Augustus M. Church
- *Wm. Yeats Horner
- *Abijah Baker
Frank Joseph Manham
F. N. Hilton
- *John Lyman Beard
- *Leonard Stone
- *James Stokes
- *Wm. Powell Abbey
- *Ebenezer Haley
James Leyman Hollis
John C. Whipple
E. Powell
- David S. Smalley
A. B. Montross
- *Barelay D. Tulley Clough
- *Wm. Ryan
John E. Perry
- *Wm. Morrison
Michael Rogan
John Ryan
- Antone J. Garcia
Max Seigrist
- *Osman Slayton
- *Simeon Stivers
- *Addison M. Crane
Sebastian Franz
- *Wm. Hayes
Wm. Wallace
Valentine Alviso
- *George W. Bond
James Allen Trefry
- *Emery Munyan
- *Edwood Ross
Wm. Barry
- *Luther Edward Osgood
Nathaniel Lockling Babb
- *Henry G. Ellsworth
Howard Overacker
Frank Rose Constant
- *Michael Overacker
- *Wm. Morris Liston
Wm. Henry Cockefair
- *George Emerson
Lewis Cass Smith
- *Edward Neihaus
James Hawley
- *Elias Lyman Beard
- *John Hall
- *August May
Ozias Buddington Simpson
C. C. Chase
Wm. Andrew Yates
Robt. Gannin Abbey
- *Liberty Perham
Frank R. Stokes
- *Mahlon Beach Sturgis
- *Ivan James Tifoche
- *Henry Smith
Augustus Moore
Timm Hauschmidt
- Joseph M. Harley
- *Peter J. Campbell
- *Hiram Davis
- *Geo. W. Peacock
- *Calvin J. Stevens
Frank Rowane
Daniel Moody Sanborn
- Frank C. Jarvis
Louis Cammerin
M. W. Dixon
- *Chris Jessen
Manuel Lewis Vierra
Manuel Fereira
- *George M. Smith
- *Andrew Beck
Wm. Buchanan

ARGONAUT CLUB OF WASHINGTON, MURRAY AND EDEN TOWNSHIPS.

To be a member of this club it was necessary that a man should be a resident of one of the townships prior to January 1, 1853. The last general meeting was held March 13, 1893.

The list of members follows:

William Barry, secretary	George W. Bond, president
John Buchanan	Henry Dusterberry
Geo. Forbes	Sebastian Franz
F. B. Granger, Sr.	Wm. Hayes
August May	A. B. Montross
Augustus Moore	E. Munyon
E. Neihaus	L. E. Osgood
H. Overacker, Sr.	W. T. Ralph
C. C. Scott	D. S. Smalley
Henry L. Smith	W. B. Sturgis
Ivan James Tifoche	J. T. Walker



PIONEERS OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

Pioneers of Washington Township prior to 1854, so far as their names can be ascertained. (Deceased marked *)

John M. Horner	*Redman Horner
*Henry C. Smith	*E. L. Beard
*Earl Marshall	*Simeon Stivers
James Hawley	*Wm. Sim
*Wm. Tyson	Perry Morrison
*Wm. Morrison	*Wm. Y. Horner
*Addison M. Crane	*A. M. Church
*Wm. M. Liston	Richard Threlfall
*C. J. Stevens	*Henry Ellsworth
J. J. Riser	*——— Kempster (teacher)
Stephen W. Millard	Thos. W. Millard
*Chas. Kelsey	James A. Trefry
*Caleb Cook Scott	*Geo. W. Bond
D. D. Hennion	*Joseph Nichols
*J. T. Walker	*S. M. Marston
*Rufus Denmark	N. L. Babb
*James Beazzell	W. H. Cockefair
*Origen Mowry	*Timothy Rix
*W. W. Brier	*E. Neihaus
Chas. Valpey	*Wm. Threlfall
E. Dyer	*Geo. W. Patterson
Socrates Huff	Ed. Huff
John Huff	*Wm. Hayes
*John L. Wilson	*Robt. Blacow
*Garrett Norris	*C. C. Breyfogle
*Wm. Ogden	*Joseph Ralph
*Edwood Ross	D. M. Sanborn
*Osman Sanborn	Chas. Sanborn
*Ebenezer Haley, Sr.	*Chas. Hadsell
John M. English	*Don J. J. Vallejo

*John R. Sim
 *Joseph F. Black
 *Dr. B. F. Bucknall
 *Hiram Eggers
 *John Blacon
 *Joshua Wauhab
 *L. E. Osgood
 C. S. Haley
 *Joseph Newsom
 *Johnston Horner
 Jacob Morgan
 *Isaac Horner
 *Chas. Hilton
 *Abijah Baker
 *James Seal
 *Stephen Larkins
 *W. W. Moore
 Silas Baker
 *Fred Lucas
 *Dr. Bacon
 Dr. McKinstry
 F. P. Dann
 Dr. Murdock
 *——— Chamberlain
 *J. W. Musser
 *Joseph Mayhew
 *Calvin Valpey, Sr.
 H. C. Valpey
 *John Bergman
 Benjamin Marston
 Geo. Marston
 *F. W. Redding
 Comfort Y. Haley

*Hiram Davis
 Wm. Barry
 *Wm. Poinsett
 *James Emerson
 *Stacy Horner
 Howard Overacker, Sr.
 *Emery Munyan
 *Wm. Wales
 *Thos. Newsom
 Otho Morgan
 *——— Johnston (teacher)
 Geo. A. Lloyd
 James Torrey
 *Reuben Clemens
 Joseph H. Cann
 *Hon. J. M. Moore
 *Robt. Hilton
 Francisco Cataldo Pepe
 *James Johnston
 *Dr. Goucher
 Augustin Alviso
 Dr. J. M. Selfridge
 A. W. Harris
 *R. McClure
 *Jonathan Mayhew
 Allen H. Mayhew
 Calvin Valpey, Jr.
 ——— Lasell
 *——— Laumeister
 Chas. Marston
 *Henry Marston
 *Edwin Haley
 W. W. Haley
 E. H. Haley, Jr.



FIRST ASSESSMENT ROLL WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, 1854.

Name.	Acres.	Personal and Real Estate Total Value.
C. M. Abbott		\$100.00
Francisco Arricocu.....		750.00
David Ash		250.00
J. M. Amador		475.00
E. S. Allen		500.00
Augustine Alviso.....	2182	55,880.00
J. A. Amador.....		825.00
Wm. Ackerman		100.00
E. L. Beard.....	600	47,200.00
"	850	47,500.00
Jesse Beard	200	23,500.00
Jane L. W. Beard	300	36,000.00
J. Brown.....		100.00

Name.	Acres.	Total Value.
J. Blacow		1,500.00
Wm. Baker		700.00
J. Bagley		200.00
J. B. Bollo.		1,600.00
Mulbino Bider		75.00
G. W. Bond		225.00
Richard Binson		1,200.00
Beard & Hawthorne		1,600.00
J. F. Black		200.00
Martha E. Bucknell		100.00
E. Barnes		1,000.00
W. W. Brier.	40	3,065.00
Broder & Edmonson		2,100.00
A. H. Broder		450.00
Broder & Smith		500.00
Robert Blacow		8,065.00
C. C. Bray		2,600.00
I. Coombs		350.00
J. G Chipman		350.00
Wm. H. Coombs		1,500.00
N. W. Coles.		400.00
P. J. Campbell.		950.00
Z. Cheney		2,340.00
J. Cheney		
D. I. Cheney		200.00
P. Columbet.		1,775.00
G. Carr.		275.00
H. N. Cowell		350.00
J. W. Carrick		350.00
Clark, Crane & Co.		5,650.00
A. M. Church		400.00
T. M. Coombs		3,200.00
Edw. Chauncey		1,700.00
Chauncey & Wise.		1,800.00
R. Clements		400.00
Clemente Columbet.	45	49,500.00
R. Denmark.		1,400.00
G. Denmark		500.00
R. B. Donovan		655.00
A. Day		600.00
J. W. Dougherty		350.00
G. Dennis		2,900.00
R. Dairs.		475.00
D. S. Donaldson		350.00
H. Davis.		1,025.00
R. S. Dorr		100.00
F. Duff.		200.00
F. Higuera	9026	98,883.00
G. Higuera	160	1,610.00
J. Edmonds.		1,210.00
T. Higuera		300.00
J. Everett.		600.00
Eckler & Sheperd.	12	2,400.00

Name.	Acres.	Total Value.
A. Higuera		2,925.00
P. Edsall		200.00
P. E. Edmonson		500.00
P. Fay		75.00
E. Flint		870.00
U. Felix		610.00
Forbes & Co.		4,850.00
J. Foxall		200.00
C. Folwell		240.00
J. Ferris		300.00
A. Forbes		450.00
J. Grammer		250.00
N. Galindo		650.00
C. C. Gage		50.00
H. Gaskins	123	5,790.00
S. Griffin		400.00
J. Gragg		1,600.00
W. R. Graham		100.00
F. B. Granger		200.00
A. Gildersleeve		100.00
E. W. Goucher		650.00
J. Hartram & C. Stauffer		1,175.00
D. D. Henion		1,590.00
J. Hawley & Co.	200	7,180.00
A. W. Harris		2,100.00
A. W. & E. Harris	160	3,640.00
H. Harris		100.00
C. Hilton		70.00
Hilton & Beazell		725.00
Wm. H. Hawthorn		650.00
Chas. Hadsell		965.00
S. Hance		800.00
H. Hissa		200.00
I. Harrison		200.00
Wm. Hopkins	100	3,645.00
I. B. Horner	100	3,887.00
G. W. Hopkins		1,000.00
I. G. Hansen		805.00
Howard & Chamberlain		14,600.00
H. Hojan		100.00
Wm. Ineell		80.00
J. Ingram		275.00
C. Ira		400.00
J. M. Horner & Wm. Y. Horner	3319	125,075.00
T. M. & Wm. Y. Horner		30,700.00
I. L. James & Co.		957.00
Wm. Jones		1,500.00
F. Johnson		300.00
C. Johnson		100.00
H. Kelsey		1,420.00
I. B. King & D. Ecles		175.00
Kreis & French		609.00
E. J. Knowles		1,300.00

Name.	Acres.	Total Value.
L. N. Kerr.....		325.00
D. Lewis		1,550.00
H. A. & J. G. Lynch		400.00
D. B. Lynch.....		400.00
J. Lewelling		115.00
J. Lamson		790.00
G. Leland		1,500.00
H. S. & E. S. Long		2,700.00
A. J. Sewell		1,225.00
G. A. Loyd.....		4,225.00
E. Marshall.....		6,150.00
S. Maxwell		983.00
J. Mesquita		500.00
S. W. & T. W. Millard		120.00
A. & E. McWilliams		400.00
S. Murphy		807.00
Wm. Meyers.....		100.00
J. A. Mayhew		9,495.00
L. J., I. S. & Benj. Marston		2,775.00
I. S. Marston		2,780.00
J. McCrea		250.00
F. Michael		225.00
G. Moore		1,100.00
E. & A. C. Morton		1,175.00
S. Murdoch.....		200.00
J. R. Mason		1,400.00
J. Marshall		175.00
B. Mowry		3,780.00
J. M. & S. Moore.....		3,300.00
J. Morgan		700.00
M. E. & A. Marshall		600.00
J. C. Nail		4,030.00
J. Newsom		1,200.00
E. Neihaus & Gates		2,390.00
J. Nichols		984.00
C. Noler		400.00
J. B. Nash		550.00
H. Norton		250.00
L. Newman		300.00
J. H. Overstrand.....		450.00
J. E. Patterson		1,000.00
T. Presidio		50.00
J. Parsons		450.00
A. Phillips		2,680.00
G. W. Patterson		3,000.00
Francesco Cataldo Pepe.....		570.00
T. Pacheco	100	8,400.00
Wm. Pointsett.....		400.00
J. D. Parker.....		700.00
R. A. Potter.....		420.00
M. Powell		100.00
Pico, Beard & Horner	335	223,705.00
J. J. Riser.....		1,875.00

Name.	Acres.	Total Value.
L. Ride		100.00
A. W. Richardson	100	2,200.00
I. Remnick.....		1,500.00
S. A. Rise		625.00
J. Ralph	100	8,565.00
C. Rowe		600.00
Remey & Dubois.....		1,000.00
F. Rocco.....		3,400.00
T. Rix		3,575.00
J. B. Sweetzer		5,802.00
T. H. Scribner		1,765.00
Wm. Sisson		4,700.00
E. Sisson		1,510.00
C. C. Scott.....		3,400.00
Scott & Larkin		1,000.00
S. Stivers		750.00
J. F. Storer		400.00
M. Sigrist.....		500.00
C. J. Stevens		3,100.00
C. Swensey		880.00
N. Slusser		275.00
C. A. Sigmond		40.00
H. Southworth		429.00
J. M. Selfridge		1,195.00
J. Sanders		750.00
A. Siloner		675.00
S. Stearn		100.00
H. C. Sill		100.00
H. C. Smith	100	500.00
H. C. Smith	160	4,600.00
S. C. Smith	200	20,450.00
Tyson & Morrison	150	11,860.00
J. S. Terryl		625.00
J. Threlfall & J. Bamber		2,020.00
M. A. Torry		375.00
R. & J. Threlfall		1,815.00
E. S. Tabbitt, Smith & Griffiths		1,000.00
J. Travis		1,565.00
J. A. Trefry		450.00
J. Thompson		100.00
M. Tompkins	137	4,410.00
Wm. C. Jones	1775	16,425.00
C. Valpey		1,020.00
H. A. Vanhquin		500.00
H. M. Vesey		600.00
J. J. Vallejo	17724	242,020.00
R. Wolcott		75.00
M. W. Wheeler		1,374.00
J. R. Wilson		336.00
J. Wauhab		750.00
H. Webster		380.00
H. Watson	100	4,424.00
B. Williams		150.00

Name.	Acres.	Total Value.
John L. Wilson.....		\$450.00
C. W. Wandell.....		110.00
L. D. Warren.....		500.00
F. J. Whaley.....		1,750.00
M. Watts		200.00
S. L. Wilson.....		1,275.00
Unknown owners	100	5,700.00
Total acreage	41286	\$1,343,015.00

(The above table shows that the assessments of seven firms and individuals covered about three-fourths of the property of the township.)

Signed,

MR. A. M. CRANE, Co. Judge

MR. S. H. ROBINSON,

MR. A. MARSHALL,

Associates.

For the year 1903: Total acreage assessed, 108,316; total valuation, \$6,612,424.

Thanks are due for the above data to Mr. Myron Whidden, Deputy County Auditor, Hon. John G. Mattos, Jr., and Mr. Arthur Biddle.



PRODUCTIONS AND ACREAGE, 1903.

	No. of Fruit Trees
Apple	8,153
Apricot	48,908
Cherry.....	20,776
Fig.....	175
Pear.....	11,760
Peach	24,471
Prune	88,703
Plum	5,052
Quince.....	225
Lemon.....	468
Orange	667
Olive	1,803
Almond.....	45,445
Chestnut	94
Walnut	3,251
Total trees.....	259,971
No. of acres in fruit trees	2,600
No. of acres in grapes.....	2,299
No. of acres in berries and small fruits	87
Total acres in fruit	4,986

Hay and Grain.	No. of Acres.
Hay	7,262
Wheat	312
Barley	13,860
Corn	423
Oats.....	141
 Total	 21,998
 Vegetables.	 Acres.
Sugar Beets.....	3,853
Potatoes	1,262
Tomatoes.....	481
Other Vegetables.....	901
Rhubarb	82
 Total	 6,579
Total number of acres in fruit	4,986
Total number of acres in hay and grain	21,998
Total number of acres in vegetables ..	6,579
Total number of acres marsh and pasture	74,653
Total number of acres of land in Township,	108,216 11-100
Value of stock, horses, cattle, etc.,	\$106,606.
Total valuation of all property, real and personal.	\$6,612,494



FIRST SCHOOL CENSUS. (Verbatim copy.)

Report of the Common School Marshal to the County Superintendent of Santa Clara County, for the school year ending October 31, A. D., 1852:

DISTRICT OF SAN JOSE MISSION.

Names of Parents and Guardians.	Names of Children, bet. 4 and 18 years of age.
E. L. Beard and Jane Beard.....	Henry G. Ellsworth John Beard.
Chaney Cornell and Charlotte Cornell . . .	Robert Cornell, Wm. Cornell, A. Fisk Cornell.
James Hawley and Hetty Hawley	Charlotte Hawley, Emma Hawley.
Jose Jesus Vallejo and Soebad Vallejo . .	Maria Vallejo Encarnacion Vallejo, General Vallejo, Guadalupe Vallejo.
Thomas Wright and Lucy Wright	Amanda E. Ray, James T. Ray.

H. C. Smith and Mary A. Smith	Julia Ann Smith. Jerome Van Gorden. George Van Gorden.
Isaac Goodwin	Lewis Goodwin. Edwin A. Goodwin. Nancy E. Goodwin. Lucinda A. Goodwin.
Flugencio Higera and Julia Higera	Leandro Higera. Salio Higera.
Wm. Bell and Elizabeth Bell	E. James Hoyt.
Juan Ireas	Theodore Carrovna. Jose Carrovna. Sabata Carrovna.
Juan J. Bornel and Yulupa Riesgo	Maria Riesgo. Jesus Riesgo.
Augustine Ruis	Jose Doleres.
P. I. Camble and Crista Camble	John T. Camble. Nancy Jane Camble.
Juana Misquite	Jose Falis. Frankeline Falis. Alvena Higera. Lotala Higera.
Marea Gaisea and Jose Romero	Gavallo Tromaro. Manwel Romero.
T. W. Gaskins	James Forbs.
Caleb C. Scott and Mary Scott	Amelia Ann Scott.
Joseph Nicols and Jerusha S. Nicols	Enos Nicols. Martin Nicols.
Horace Skinner and *Lora Skinner	Horace Skinner. Joseph Skinner.
Clement Beateie and Hanah Beateie	Wm. H. A. Beateie. Spenser Beateie. Jane Beateie.
John M. Horner	Wm. Horner. *Possibly Leva.
As will be seen by the date, the above report was made before Alameda County or Washington Township was organized.	

SCHOOL EXPENDITURES.

The total amount of money expended for school purposes, the first year after the organization of the County, in 1854, was \$4,765. It is impossible to ascertain what part of this amount was expended in this township.

The total amount of moneys apportioned to the several school districts in the township, in 1903, was:

Alvarado.....	\$3,168.00
Alviso.....	2,000.20
Centreville	4,632.60
Decoto	4,317.25
Lincoln	702.55
Mission.....	2,963.95
Mowry's	814.05
Newark	3,017.85
Niles	3,790.30
Rosedale	759.20
Stony Brook	676.05
Sheridan	702.51
Warm Springs	2,298.00
Washington (Irvington).....	3,223.60
Union High School, No. 2 (Centreville):	
County Fund (approximately) .	5,000.00
State Fund (approximately) ...	1,248.68
 Total	 \$39,714.79



RAINFALL AND TEMPFRACTURE.

Thanks are due Mr. Wm. Barry for statistics in the following tables:

Mean temperature for 18 years, 1886-1903 inclusive, 64°.9.

Lowest annual mean for 18 years was in 1902, 60°.3.

Lowest monthly mean for 18 years was in January, 1888, 47°.0.

Lowest daily temperature for 18 years was in January 14, 1888, 26°.0.

Highest monthly mean for 18 years was in June, 1891, 85°.5.

1898, highest monthly mean, consecutively, June, 81°; July, 82°.5; August, 80°.

Highest temperature in 18 years was May 28, 1887, 112°.0.

Mean temperature for 16 years prior to 1902, 67°.2.

Average rainfall for 15 seasons, 20.306 inches.

Snow fell in the township for 5 hours, 5 minutes, on February 5, 1887.

The thermometer fell 18° in 30 minutes on May 7, 1893; W. wind, 3 p. m.

There were 18 earthquake shocks, 1886 to 1897 inclusive.

There was a killing frost on May 11, 1887.

Senorita Guadalupe de Jesus Vallejo.



Senorita Guadalupe de Jesus Vallejo, who was born in the Mission of San Jose in 1844, died in San Francisco August 8, 1904, after a brief illness.

She was the fourth child of Don Jose de Jesus Vallejo and Dona Soledad Sanchez y de Ortego. It was a matter of much pride with her, that she had been a subject of Spain, of Mexico and of the United States.

Don Jose de Vallejo was the son of Ignacio Vallejo, and his wife was the granddaughter of Gov. Don Gasper de Portola; both of these families were among the very first Spanish settlers to enter California, at the invitation and direction of the Spanish King, and both have the proud distinction of having their names inscribed, for many generations, in the old Spanish archives.

Don Jose Vallejo was appointed administrator of the Mission of San Jose in 1836; here he brought his young wife that same year, and here all of his children were born, and grew to manhood and womanhood. Their home was a center of refinement, of culture and hospitality, for over forty years in the Mission town.

Miss Vallejo, never married, and removed to San Francisco in the early 90's where she became a teacher of languages, a writer of prose and verse, a literary critique, and a translator of no mean ability.

After her death the following pathetic verses were found wrapped around the key to their old home in the Mission of San Jose.

What heart aches were silently endured by this gentle woman as she saw her loved ones scattered, the home of her childhood given over to strangers and herself a sojourner.

The Key To My Old Home.

Whence came it here, this quaint old fashioned key?
But Oh! How dear and precious a thing to me.
I would not change it into purest gold,
Nor would I shape it in the latest mold.

And the door you belong to, is it open or shut?
How did you leave it, or have you forgot?
So long ago since you abandoned your post;
Were you displeased with and left your next host?

Perhaps, sorry to see me wander and roam,
You invite me to *rest* in my childhood's home.
Or, have you chosen to dwell where're I'll be?
Then you and I shall ne'er part company.

Your duty now, is to guard with great care,
The thousand fond memories I hold as *so fair*.
'Twill be a duty of pleasure and rest,
And I trust you with it, as a friend I love best.

GUADALUPE VALLEJO.

1. *Chlorophytum* L. 2. *Cladonia* L. 3. *Cladonia* L.

more explicit information address
Secretary Oakland Board of Trade,
Oakland, Cal.



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